

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Family feuds
The tangled tale behind the killing of a young French boy

Sin and the clergy
Roger Scruton argues that radical churchmen are devaluing their spiritual authority

The City revolution
How sweeping are the changes? An interview with a Bank of England director

Dryest Africa
Can British science rescue the people of the drought ravaged continent?

Portfolio

The daily Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners on Saturday. Mrs Joan Buck of Formby, Liverpool and Miss Moira Piggot of West London, each received £1,000. The weekly prize of £20,000 was not won, so next Saturday £40,000 will be available in the weekly competition. Portfolio list, page 14, rules and how to play, information service, back page.

CND plans East bloc protests

CND members are planning events outside Eastern Bloc embassies in London next month. They intend to send messages to ordinary people and officials of the countries involved explaining their opposition to new deployments of Western and Eastern nuclear weapons. Page 2

Return to profit at Times group

The Times and The Sunday Times made an overall trading profit in the financial year to June for the first time since they were acquired by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation and "the first profit for many years before that", the Australian parent company's annual report reveals. Page 17

Defence cuts

Service chiefs are trying to cut their spending plans for the next 10 years by thousands of millions of pounds. Page 2

Hamilton to go

Mr William Hamilton, aged 67, Labour MP for Fife Central and a prominent opponent of the Montarchy, announced last night that he is to retire from the Commons at the next general election.

Karpov at last

Karpov won at last and needs just one more success to retain his world chess crown; at the Salomika Chess Olympiad his Soviet colleagues are close to victory too. Page 6

Dearer tea

Tea and coffee prices are set to rise by a further 10 per cent and 7 per cent respectively despite steep increases earlier this year. Page 3

Benefits change

Pensions and other social security payments rise by about 5 per cent today but social security rule changes could mean losses for three million claimants. Page 3

EMS plea

Britain should become a full member of the European Monetary System immediately, according to a study group led by Mr David Howell, the former Energy Secretary. Page 17

Olympic rebuff

The IAAF have rejected a plan to change the timetable for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games to fit in with American prime-time television requirements. Page 22

Leader page, 15

Letters: On public spending, from Mr D. Shapiro; college costs, from Mr G. M. Ross; by-election, from Mr M. W. New. Leading article: East-West relations.

Features, pages 12-14

Bernard Levin speaks from the heart: Preventive care with a private GP: Philip Howard on more meanings: Tornado spin-off: Matrimony - start of a series.

Obituary, page 16

Professor Louis Rosenhead, Mr Denis Weaver, Stanislaw Balinski

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Twin challenge to Kinnock over handling of strike

Mr Arthur Scargill issued an implied challenge yesterday to Mr Neil Kinnock to give unequivocal backing to the striking miners at a rally on Friday.

The two working miners attacked at the weekend called for an NUM rule change to require reflection of the union president himself in the handling of the strike.

By Barrie Clement, Philip Webster and Clifford Longley

Mr Arthur Scargill yesterday issued what amounted to a challenge to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, as left-wing MPs prepared to attack Mr Kinnock over his handling of the 37-week-old miners' strike.

Mr Kinnock's remarks in Moscow that reports that the miners and their families were on the point of starvation were exaggerated has also caused resentment. Mr Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, a member of the left-wing Campaign Group of MPs, furiously attacked Mr Kinnock last night. He said that if Mr Kinnock had not distanced himself from the miners over the entire struggle, and brought himself into disrepute with his own South Wales miners, he would not have said what he did.

Mr Kinnock is expected to repeat his denunciation of violence in the dispute from any quarter - including the miners. It is an argument which resulted in a hangman's noose being dangled over the head of Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, at an NUM rally in Aberavon, South Wales.

Mr Scargill's challenge to Mr Kinnock yesterday comes as the Labour leader returns from Moscow tomorrow to face criticism from some left-wing MPs over his handling of the dispute.

The demonstration by MPs which brought the Commons to a halt last Wednesday, the day Mr Kinnock went to the Soviet Union, was seen as a mark of the frustration of many of them at what they regard as the less than wholehearted backing

from the front bench for the strike.

Mr Kinnock, who refused to attend a series of NUM rallies in support of the strike, will be expected to give unequivocal backing to the dispute. Mr Scargill implied yesterday. But recent indications from the Kinnock camp have been that the Labour leader is significantly less confident about the eventual victory of the pitmen than Mr Scargill.

In an interview on BBC Radio yesterday Mr Scargill was asked about the response of the Labour Party to the strike, and he pointedly did not mention Mr Kinnock. The party itself had given "wonderful support" and Mr Jim Mortimer, general secretary and Mr Eric Heffer,

former chairman, had been "quite superb".

When asked about Mr Kinnock, he said: "No doubt on the occasion of the meeting on Friday night in Stoke the leader of Labour Party will make clear what he wants to say and where he stands on every single question affecting the miners' strike."

Mr Scargill added that the miners expected both the TUC and the Labour Party to abide by the near-unanimous resolutions of total support passed by both conferences.

Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool, one of the four senior churchmen who met leaders of the striking miners last week appealed to the coal board yesterday to resume negotiations.

Seeking "total victory or unconditional surrender" would not lead to lasting peace in the coal industry, nor heal the bitter divisions in mining communities, he said. Mr Worlock spoke at a rally in Liverpool after consultations. It is understood, with the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood.

Mr Scargill yesterday made a fresh appeal for more support from power and steel workers on the eve of a crucial meeting of the TUC's finance and general purposes committee which is due to review the strike today.

Move to oust Scargill

Attack victims seek new rules

By David Hewson

The two working Yorkshire miners who were the victims of pit strike attacks over the weekend yesterday called for a revision of the union rules to topple the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill.

Mr Stuart Spencer, aged 32, whose £40,000 home was gutted in an arson attack on Saturday, went to Pontefract general hospital to visit Mr Michael Fletcher, aged 24, who suffered a broken shoulder, broken ankle, bruised ribs and other injuries when he was beaten by six masked men on Friday.

Both men urged the NUM to change its rules, and Mr Fletcher said: "All our fellow miners should get back to work and change the union rules so that the NUM president has to be elected every three years."

Mr Spencer said that striking miners had threatened to kill his two-year-old daughter Rebecca days before the fire at his home in Upton, near Pontefract, West Yorkshire.

"They emphasized they would kill my daughter and the main target in this blaze was her bedroom. That sums it up."

"They openly told me they would kill my daughter and they have tried to do just that. What they have done to Michael is disgusting."

Both men had returned to work the previous Monday, and shortly before the attack Mr Spencer had moved his family to a secret address.

Several men are to appear in court today charged in connection with the baseball bat attack on Mr Fletcher, of Castleford, West Yorkshire, police said last night.

The men are being held at several police stations in West Yorkshire. Police would give no further details about how many were involved or what the charges are.

Police said that forensic tests had confirmed that the fire which destroyed Mr Spencer's home was caused by arson.

In North Wales, the area's NUM national executive member Mr Ted McKay, who spoke out against picket line violence last week, called police

Continued on back page, col 6

Raison flies out to the famine area

Nairobi - Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of Overseas Development arrived in Addis Ababa yesterday to assess the Ethiopian famine and relief operation (Charles Harrison writes).

After meeting officials he left for Korum 200 miles north of the capital in one of the worst-hit famine areas. More than 20,000 destitute people are receiving famine relief from aid teams in Korum.

There is concern in Ethiopia that the flow of relief food is not keeping pace with need. Nearly all the available supplies landed at the Red Sea port of Assab have now been moved inland.

The exhaustion of supplies at the port is some sign of the effectiveness of the effort to move the food inland.

Where aid goes, page 7

Missing log 'linked to GCHQ ban'

By Our Political Reporter

The Government is to be asked this week to publish information contained in the navigational logs of other submarines which were in the vicinity of the General Belgrano at the time the Argentine cruiser was sunk by HMS Conqueror during the Falklands war.

A Labour front bench spokesman, Mr George Foulkes, yesterday linked the banning of trade unions at the Government's communications headquarters at Cheltenham with the disappearance of the Conqueror's control room log, and alleged they were both part of a plot to conceal that the war Cabinet knew, when ordering the sinking of the Belgrano, that the vessel had been ordered to return to port.

Speaking yesterday in Ardrossan, Ayrshire, Mr Foulkes recalled that on January 12 this year Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, had said that Mrs Thatcher knew of the Argentine orders because they had been intercepted by GCHQ. MPs have tabled questions to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, about the logs of other submarines, notably the HMS Splendid which was believed to have been trailing the aircraft carrier, 25 de Mayo.

Mr Foulkes described as "a panic move" a decision by the Ministry of Defence to refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions the possibility that classified information has been disclosed in a diary kept by a former officer of HMS Conqueror, extracts from which was published in The Observer yesterday.



Mr Stuart Spencer (right) visiting Mr Michael Fletcher in Pontefract general hospital yesterday. Both are working miners who suffered attacks.

Chernenko set to visit Paris, says Mitterrand

From Diana Geddes Paris

Konstantin Chernenko, the Russian leader, will pay an official visit to France next week, "events permitting", President Mitterrand announced here yesterday. No date was given.

It would be Mr Chernenko's first visit to the West as President of the Soviet Union, and the first official visit to France by a Russian leader since 1977, President Mitterrand said.

In an interview with Syrian television on the eve of his official visit to Damascus, Mr Mitterrand said yesterday: "Mr Chernenko will visit us next year in Paris. I think, events permitting. It is at least the wish expressed on both sides that this meeting continue to enrich our relations."

Although there were many points on which France and Russia disagreed, particularly in relations to Soviet military action, he said, there had always been dialogue.

"Beside all this, there is a great people which has suffered enormously from war, which has contributed to our own liberation, whose cultural sources are the same as ours, and whose interests have more in common with our own than people often think," he said.

WASHINGTON - The Reagan Administration regards Mr Chernenko's visit as further evidence of Soviet willingness to begin a new dialogue with the West about arms reductions (Christopher Thomas writes). But there is widespread scepticism in Washington about Russia's motives, which Senior officials suspect may be no more than an attempt to reverse serious public opinion defeats over arms talks intransigence.

Mr Chernenko will also try to improve the steadily worsening relationship between the Soviet Union and France. M. Mitterrand has taken an increasingly belligerent stand against Russia's human rights record.

US officials believe Mr Chernenko is anxious to demonstrate Soviet Union flexibility and willingness to negotiate.

Mitterrand for Syria, page 7

Gorbachev mystery, page 8

Leading article, page 15

Enraged hijackers threaten to kill 103

By Our Foreign Staff

Three armed hijackers of a Somali Airlines Boeing 707, "extremely furious" at the rejection of their demands by Somalia, yesterday threatened to blow up the plane along with all their 103 hostages.

The hijackers, the Ethiopian Foreign Minister said, "The situation is very tense", he said at Addis Ababa airport, where the hijacked plane was surrounded by armed Ethiopian guards.

Having twice extended the deadline to blow up the aircraft since taking it over on Saturday, the hijackers had earlier, yesterday, threatened to shoot, saying they would execute 20 Somali officials on board. The deadline for their latest threat was set at midnight local time (21.00 GMT) yesterday.

The hijackers, believed to be Somali Army officers, have demanded the reprieve of seven young Somalis they say were due to be executed yesterday for alleged connections with the rebel Somali National Movement (SNM). They also sought the release of 13 political prisoners, including several former Somali ministers.

Yesterday Mogadishu Radio said the Somali government had rejected the demands and held Ethiopia responsible for the safety of the plane and its passengers, which include one Briton and two Italians.

The Somali Foreign Ministry denied that anyone was to be

executed yesterday and said that by agreeing to release the prisoners it would be giving in to blackmail and encouraging international terrorism.

The airliner was hijacked on a flight from Mogadishu, the Somali capital, to Cairo. A gunfight apparently took place as the hijackers struck shortly before the jet was due to land at Berbera, northern Somalia, and a security guard on board was injured.

The hijackers at first demanded to go to Jiddah, but Saudi Arabia refused to let the plane land and it flew to Addis Ababa. The hijackers guard and 13 women and children were allowed to leave after negotiations by the Ethiopians.

The hijackers at first threatened to blow up the plane by midnight local time on Saturday, then extended the deadline to noon yesterday, and later to midnight, when told more time was needed for consultations with Somalia.

Mogadishu accuses Ethiopia of supporting the guerrilla groups operating in Somalia. The hijack follows a period of increased guerrilla activity in northern Somalia by the SNM, which has carried out a number of attacks around Hargeisa, and claims to have cut main roads in the area.

Reports from Somalia say about 50 Somalis have recently been executed by the authorities for consorting with the rebels.

Regional failures, page 14

Commuters face Tube disruptions

By David Walker

West End shoppers and commuters face severely disrupted journeys on the London Underground for several days from this morning as contractors begin the delicate job of removing asbestos panels damaged in Friday night's fire at Oxford Circus station.

The station is now open, but London Regional Transport said it had sealed the area of the northbound Victoria Line platform where the asbestos was found. No Victoria Line service is operating between Green Park and Warren Street stations, where trains will terminate. And trains on the Bakerloo Line, where a normal service is running, will not stop at Oxford Circus. The station's Central Line platforms are functioning normally.

The seriousness of the fire, which trapped five trains and resulted in 15 people being taken to hospital, was gauged early on Saturday as firemen and staff, accompanied by representatives of the Department of Transport, discovered the asbestos damage. Asbestos was used to line the Victoria Line tunnels when they were built in the 1960s.

The Transport Department's Railways Inspectorate will investigate the fire. No decision as yet has been made on whether to hold a public inquiry.

London Regional Transport will conduct its own investigation. Its chairman, Dr Keith Bright, has praised station staff at Oxford Circus for their quick response to the fire, which broke out in a tunnel connecting the Victoria and Bakerloo lines.

Clouds of smoke filled the tunnels just after 10pm, passengers for up to two hours before they were led to safety or their trains backed into adjacent stations.



Can you be happy this Christmas knowing he isn't?

For millions of children Christmas is something to look forward to.

For thousands, though, it can prove just the beginning of another year of deprivation.

We try our best, throughout the year, to tackle both the emotional and physical problems of these thousands.

Unfortunately, we are unable to help them all. Not through any lack of willing. But because of lack of money.

So please help us with a donation however small. To small children its effect won't be small.

Name _____
Address _____

Send to: The Children's Society, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0PH.

The Church of England Children's Society, Priests, London SE11 4BB.

The Children's Society.

Service chiefs struggle to make needs match means

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The heads of the British Armed Services are in the throes of an attempt to cut billions of pounds from their spending plans over the next 10 years to bring them into line with the likely availability of resources.

As in every year, the Ministry of Defence is preparing its long-term costings, which look 10 years ahead. It is understood that on current projections defence spending in the period to 1995 could run out of resources by about £6,000 million.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has given the Services until the end of the year to bring their requirements into line with resources.

Part of the problem is explained by the normal practice of each of the Services bidding for a larger share of potential resources than it has any realistic hope of obtaining.

However, all the signs are that this year the difficulties in matching needs and means are much more acute than usual.

The Ministry maintains a tight and continuous monitoring of defence spending, and because of this it is unlikely that spending could get wildly out of line in the next few years without it having been detected well before this.

It is likely, therefore, that the excessive demands on resources are concentrated largely in the second half of the 10-year period, from 1990 to 1995.

Sources within the Ministry

of Defence, while dismissing any suggestion that there was a crisis, suggested that it was unlikely that spending could be matched to resources in the longer term without the sacrifice of some important projects.

The service with the biggest problem appears to be the Royal Air Force. It is believed to face overspending of about £600 million.

Mr Heseltine denied at the weekend that the present search for economies constituted a review of defence policy. Nevertheless, there is a widespread feeling in the Ministry and the Services that, in the long run, the budget will be balanced only when difficult political decisions on priorities are taken.

It was being asserted yesterday that the Government's plan to acquire the Trident missile system, of which the cost is now estimated at nearly £10 billion, was not a cause of the present problems.

Sources outside the Ministry of Defence have for at least the past two years been predicting that the defence budget would come under severe pressure.

It appears to have happened now, because, although the Treasury has accepted that defence spending should rise by 2.8 per cent in real terms in 1985-86, it appears to have prevailed in its insistence that any increase in Service pay above the approximate level of inflation should in future be financed directly out of the defence budget.



Christmas is coming: Mr Kirkham displaying a depleted order book while Mr Pike enjoys the sweet life (Photographs: Phil Callaghan and Chris Harris)

Isolation facing the defiant

By Our Labour Reporter

The Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Mineworkers look set to become increasingly isolated in the policies of outright defiance of employment laws.

A larger number of unions, significantly including the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section (AUW-TASS), are prepared to defend themselves in court.

A paper prepared for the Trades Union Congress's employment committee urges affiliates to adopt a pragmatic attitude and emphasizes that the movement's policy of opposition to the laws does not mean that unions have to defy injunctions and refuse to pay fines.

There is also mounting evidence that local union officials are thinking twice before sanctioning spontaneous industrial action now that a clause in the Employment Act, 1982, renders the union liable for costs if there has been no secret ballot.

The Confederation of British Industry believes that the new pragmatism started to gain ground after the sequestration of the National Graphical Association's funds, but that the pace has quickened recently.

A split on the left of the movement is appearing over attitudes to the law. The transport workers' union has made clear that it will not defend itself today against an action brought for contempt of court by Austin Rover, but TASS has said that it will be putting forward its case. The National Union of Mineworkers has consistently refused to appear to defend civil actions during its 37-week dispute.

The police said yesterday that a man is to appear in court after an incident involving Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader in Derby on Saturday.

The police said that a man had been arrested for allegedly attempting to push Mr Scargill

It should be the busiest time of the year for Mr Alan Kirkham with his butcher's shop in a prime site just off the High Street in Doncaster, a town at the heart of the Yorkshire coalfield. Yet, as he stands behind the counter in his blood-smeared apron, there is little sign of the festive spirit.

Although the store windows around him are full of Christmas glitter and tinsel the reality of life in a town deprived of the traditional spending power of the miners presents a gloomy future for Mr Kirkham and his family.

After 20 years in the trade he is now on the verge of bankruptcy, cannot afford to pay his rent and the loan he took out to buy the business where he was once the butcher's boy, and is faced with the loss of his home.

How has the miner's strike affected me? It has been an

absolute disaster. There is no other word for it. Every business in this town has been hit to some degree or other. I don't think anyone has escaped.

Mr Kirkham, aged 41, bought the business, on the corner of Silver Street and High Street, four years ago from the man who first hired him when he was just 19. It had all the prospects of providing a secure and profitable future.

All that has now gone. He needs to take £1,400 a week just to break even: last week the takings were a little more than £1,000.

"I would actually be bankrupt now if the man I bought the business from had not allowed me to stop paying the rent and the loan I took out. But he has had to put the shop up for sale and I understand that I am faced with the loss of my business, possibly my home, and my family could soon be out of the streets. It's as bad as that."

The main shopping complex in Doncaster is the Arndale Centre, which houses 80 stores. Mr David Bowes, the centre manager, said yesterday: "some stores are reporting a 25 per cent deficit on trade. People are spending whatever money they have on essential items such as food and the luxury end of it is feeling the pinch."

At one of the town's largest toy shops, Zodiac Toys, takings were £7,000 down last week on the previous year.

Outside the Arndale Centre on a pedestrian precinct the National Union of Mineworkers was yesterday collecting cash and appealing of gifts of food for the families of miners. This Christmas in the coalfields will not be a particularly happy one for them or for the shops and stores that have come to depend on their spending power to fuel the traditional seasonal boom.

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Peter Davenport

Strike a 'disaster' for Doncaster traders

Glitter and tinsel, but no good cheer

A tale of two towns: Doncaster in the Yorkshire coalfield whose economy is crippled by the effects of the miners' strike, while Farnham in the prosperous South looks forward to brisk trade and a luxurious Christmas.

Farnham looks forward in comfort

Farnham in Surrey is looking forward to a comfortable Christmas. The miners' strike is so remote that one of the shops, Castle Reproductions, has brass fireplace sets, coal irons and fire fenders (from £36) at the front of its window display.

Farnham, which returned a Conservative MP at a by-election earlier this year, is as everybody in the town is quick to say, "a very good area".

The tightly knit shopping centre does not run to a department store, but it does have well endowed antique shops, a saddlery, a shop specializing in pianos, a gift boutique whose windows are full of pink satin and white porcelain, and a couple of delicatessens.

Even in Sainsbury's it was noticeable that customers were showing more interest in the

luxury Christmas cakes at £6.95 rather than cheaper lines.

They were also more excited by the round shape and muslin wrapping of the traditional pudding at £3.45 than by the cheapness of the plum pudding with elder and sherry, which was only 99p.

In Oakley's, a modest newsagent and gift shop, the proprietor is hoping for a good sale of motuses. Christmas cards, measuring about two feet square and priced at £2.99 each, "The young people go for them," he said, "but we do stock more expensive cards in padded boxes. They go up to £4.50 each."

At Halford's an assistant agreed that the shop would not sell a Raleigh Aero Burner BMX children's bike at £264.95 "every day of the week". On the other hand he thought local children would adopt a sniffy

attitude towards the models in the shop at under £100.

In Smallbone and Son, the butchers, I asked Mr John Howell, the manager, whether Farnham people would be eating turkey or beef for Christmas. "Both," was the succinct reply, and he added, "we will sell a lot of venison, pheasant, quail, duck and partridge as well."

"We only sell fresh turkeys leaving frozen to the supermarkets. Last year they could hardly give them away. Most of our customers will be having a four to six pound roll of sirloin as well, at £2.89 a pound."

At the Chocolate House, Mr Langford Pike was convinced his clientele was a discriminating one. "Our best selling line is always our own hand-made chocolates, which sell so well at £5.92 a pound loose that we no longer advertise. But we also do well with Bendick's Bitter-

mists at £4.25 a box, or £17 by the yard. I used to think I was lucky to sell one yard at Christmas, but this year I expect I will sell eight or nine."

Mr John flox Downes-Hall, resident manager of Briggs of Farnham, one of the town's several jewellers, is equally confident that his biggest selling line will be handcrafted Heredity bangles.

Do not think Farnham people are spendthrifts. At the butchers I was told that from the Christmas orders already taken it is plain that some of them are shunning goose as too expensive.

They will not, however, be stinting on their pets. At Ann's Animals, on Station Hill, a small notice urges: "Lodgings for small animals. Book for Christmas now."

Robin Young

Heseltine flies to Riyadh over £1,000m order

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, made a secret visit to Saudi Arabia 10 days ago to preserve Britain's hopes of winning a £1,000 million export order.

The British and Saudi governments have been negotiating for Britain to supply 40 Tornado aircraft, plus Hawk trainer aircraft and other services, for many months, and Mr Heseltine seems to have flown out on November 17 as a matter of urgency to head off French competition.

No passport day trips to France are re-examined

Britain and France are to consider resuming cross-Channel visits for which passports are not needed. The French in the summer. However, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, has cautioned ferry operators against holding out too much hope of a relaxation of the rules. The ban, imposed by the French on the ground that it enabled illegal immigrants to enter France, has drastically reduced the number of passengers on cross-channel ferries. A £2 identity card is now required for all day-trippers.

WHAT DOES THE TERM 'BASQUAISE' MEAN?



A. It's a way of doing scrambled eggs in the Pyrenees?



B. It's a bat used for playing the Basque national game?

C. It's a term of opprobrium as in 'Proper little Basquaise'?



D. It's a gascon flacon?

ANSWER:

It's a gascon flacon? A gascon flacon is a bottle used for brandy.

JANNEAU
Very old Armagnac Brandy

Union rift on paper widens

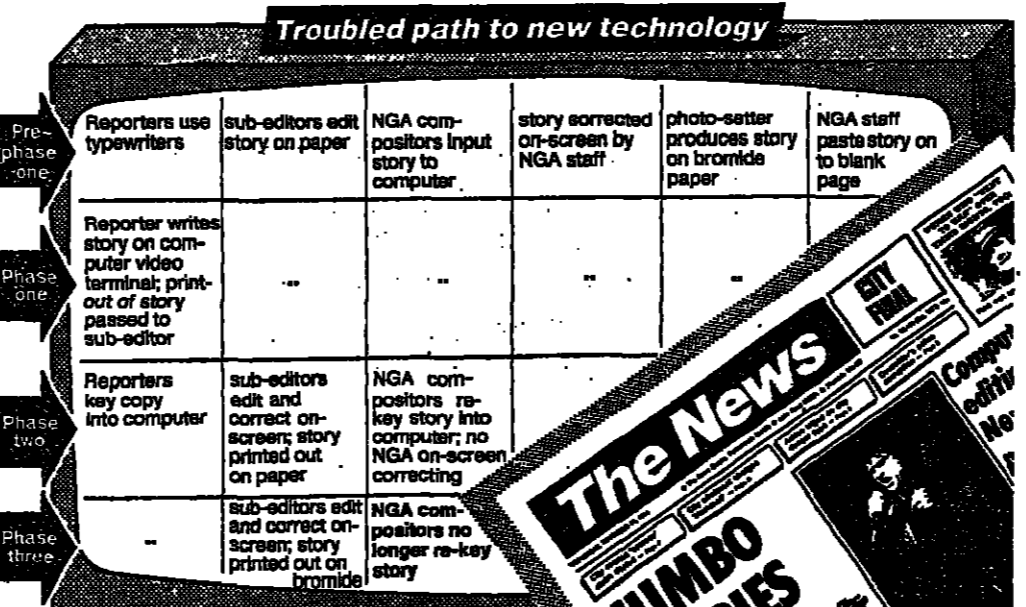
By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

A meeting is planned between the general secretaries of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and National Graphical Association (NGA) to thrash out a joint approach to new technology in provincial newspapers and settle the more immediate dispute at *The News*, the Portsmouth evening paper.

Failure to agree by Mr Kenneth Ashwin, leader of the NUJ, and Mr Tony Dubbins, of the NGA, could provoke a fierce inter-union dispute.

The first sign of such a clash has come at the Portsmouth paper, where NUJ sub-editors have refused to use new visual display terminals.

The Portsmouth journalists are protesting against a plan to transfer three "suitable" NGA members to sub-editing duties as part of the second phase of the company's new technology programme. The journalists are



demanding that they should become members of the NUJ. A meeting of national officers of the union in London at the weekend led to a pledge by the NGA that it would use its influence on management not to suspend the journalists.

The goal of management is "single key striking" whereby

material can be fed directly into typesetting equipment by editorial and advertising staff without the need for traditional NGA composers. The technology for doing so has been available for 15 years.

To preserve its membership, while giving management single keying, the NGA suggested that

employees in the "origination" areas, which include advertising and editorial, should be shared equally between the NGA itself, the NUJ, and the other printing union, Sogit '82.

The NUJ has responded by refusing to countenance any incursion into the editorial sections by other unions.

Axing councils 'means £200m new cost'

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Investigators working for the six Metropolitan county councils threatened with abolition are to challenge the Government's claim that the operation should save £50m a year.

The investigators, from Coopers & Lybrand, believe that the outcome will be even more gloomy than their first estimate. They calculated that the most to be expected was a saving of £9.5m a year. But if smaller councils did not cooperate with each other the result could be an extra cost of more than £200m.

The investigators have identified a potential extra cost now that the Government has published a Bill to allow it to

scrap the authorities and the Greater London Council at the end of March 1986.

The Government wants to scrap the Labour-led county councils of Merseyside, South and West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Tyne and Wear and Greater Manchester. It wants much of their work to be handed over to district councils. But it wants buses, police forces and fire brigades to be run by new joint boards of councillors from the district councils.

The potential extra cost spotted by Coopers & Lybrand arises because the Bill allows for one or more councils to leave

and run its own services. Their revised figures will be published next week.

Previous estimates have aroused fears in industry that abolition would not yield the rate savings expected. The Bill includes elaborate machinery to prevent staff of the scrapped councils to step into higher-paid similar jobs in successor authorities.

The Bill says that if ministers suspect that excessive pay rises are being offered, they can set up a new quango to investigate. It would be allowed to ask ministers to order councils to give information. Ministers would also be

allowed to order successor councils to tell them how many staff they employed and what their jobs were. Such orders could specify the precise type and timing of the information required.

The Bill goes further than government consultative papers in allowing for the powers of the Inner London Education Authority to be split among the borough councils after 1990. Mr Ken Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC and a member of the education authority, said that if the Bill was passed it would allow ministers to abolish the authority without seeking parliamentary sanction.

CND sets its sights on East block embassies

From Pat Healey, Sheffield

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is planning its own "Christmas present" for the Eastern block, with a series of events outside the Soviet, Czechoslovak and East German embassies in London on December 8.

Members will take part in "Operation Christmas card" to send messages to ordinary people and officials in those three countries, explaining their opposition to new deployments of nuclear weapons in both eastern and western Europe.

But the conference decided to take a vote on a motion calling for CND to step up its opposition to Soviet nuclear weapons, after an acrimonious hour-long debate on the relative blame for the nuclear arms race of the American and Russian governments.

Mrs Joan Ruddock, chairman of CND immediately stated that divisiveness had prevented division from being won, but CND policy had not changed. There was no doubt at all about CND's "absolute opposition to the new deployment the Soviet Union has undertaken in Eastern block countries".

Any review of defence spending could mean the cancellation of the Trident nuclear submarine programme, Mr Dan Smith, the newly elected vice-chairman of CND, forecast yesterday.

The Government's military spending programme was in severe trouble, he said. Those who had predicted that buying Trident would cause a crisis in defence spending had been justified.

Mrs Ruddock challenged Mrs Margaret Thatcher "to give her good friend Ronald Reagan an early Christmas present by cancelling the British Trident now".

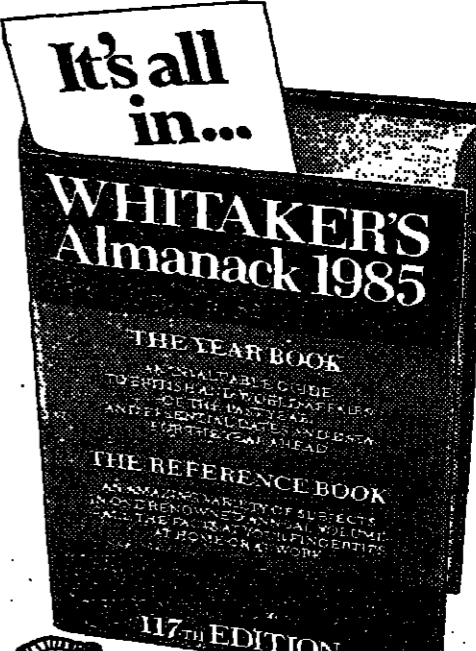
CND would not lessen its demand for the total abolition of nuclear weapons by Britain as a contribution to ending the nuclear arms race, she said.

Fears about demonstrating against nuclear weapons, in the light of "growing restrictions" on demonstrations and pickets, police investigations into "the legitimate activities of peace campaigners", and the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, led the conference to adopt a new policy on civil liberties.

CND's national council will approach the National Campaign Against the Police Bill in an attempt to produce a joint statement condemning the "threat to civil liberties presented by the restrictions of movement and assembly placed on pickets and peace campaigners".

The Government has plans to prevent "another Greenham" at Britain's second cruise missile base at RAF Molesworth in Cambridgeshire, Mr John Major, Conservative MP for Huntingdon, said at the weekend. He told villagers at Brington, near Molesworth, that the Government had "learned a lot" from what had happened at Greenham.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$29; Belgium 8 frs 500; Canada \$27; France 170 frs; Germany 170 DM; Ireland 170 DM; Italy 170 DM; Japan 170 DM; Netherlands 170 DM; Norway 170 DM; Portugal 170 DM; Spain 170 DM; Sweden 170 DM; Switzerland 170 DM; USA \$17.50; Yugoslavia 170 DM.



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WHITAKER - keeps you informed.

Benefits rise by 5%, but rules change brings losses to three million

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Pensions, child benefit, and other social security payments rise by about 5 per cent today, but with changes in social security rules that will still mean losses for about three million claimants.

About 1,250,000 pensioners are to lose up to £1 a week in supplementary benefit payments for heating their homes, and another 345,000 will lose up to 50p.

Another 230,000 claimants, including families with a total of about 150,000 children, will also lose up to £1 on heating additions.

About 200,000 families in low paid work will not see immediate improvements in Family Income Supplement. From today the new rates for the benefit, which once awarded is paid for 12 months will be paid only when new awards are made.

The second part of this year's £195 million cut in housing benefit also takes effect today. Although there is an improvement above inflation in the child's needs allowance used in calculating housing benefit, about 1,130,000 households will be affected by the rise from 26p to 29p in the amount withdrawn for rent for each pound of income.

About 115,000 households with children aged 16 to 17 in work, will receive £3.30 less housing benefit a week, which the teenager is expected to provide. For relatives and lodgers aged over 18, their contribution, which is deducted from benefit, rises from £8.20 to £8.80.

That figure is 59 per cent higher than a year ago for those aged 18 to 20, and 34 per cent higher for those aged over 21.

Some pensioners on sup-

plementary benefit will gain increases above inflation as those aged 65 to 70 are to be given heating addition automatically for the first time; those aged over 85 will automatically receive them at the higher rate of £3.20.

About 170,000 pensioners gain from that move which adds £23 million to the social security bill. But £86 million is being saved by deducting £1 from the extra heating payments for those on the long-term rate of supplementary benefit, which in theory is meant to cover nearly all needs.

Age Concern said yesterday that as a result some of the poorest pensioners will see an increase of only 1.8 per cent in their spending power instead of the 4.7 per cent needed to match inflation.

A single pensioner aged 70, for example, with a heating addition, will see supplementary benefit rise by only 65p to £36.80. For a married couple, the increase would be 2.8 per cent.

Age Concern said: "They do not know how they will meet increased costs and inflation up to November 1985. Proposed fuel increases will add further to the difficulties of those pensioners unable to heat their homes adequately."

Today's uprating adds about £1.6 billion to the social security budget taking it to about £39 billion, with the basic state pension rising £1.75 a week to £35.80 for a single pensioner, and by £2.80 a week to £57.30 for a couple. Child benefit goes up by 33p to £6.85.

The cumulative effect of housing benefit cuts since the scheme was introduced 20 months ago is that a single pensioner with an income of

£70 a week on an average local authority rent will have seen housing aid cut from £3.93 just before the scheme started in March 1983, to 78p from today, Shac, the London Housing Aid Centre, said.

For a family with two children and a gross income of £135, housing aid will have fallen from £3.24 to nothing, with a deduction of £3.30 if one of the children is 16 to 17 and working.

The Child Poverty Action Group said some claimants would be worse off from the combined effects of the changes.

The Department of Health and Social Security said it was "pretty confident" that pension and child benefit increases will be paid despite the continuing six-month strike by social security computer staff in the north-east. New order book covers have been distributed to post offices and computer tapes covering automatic credit transfers have been run.

SELECTED BENEFIT CHANGES

	Old rate (£)	Today's rate (£)
Retirement pensions		
Single	34.05	35.80
Couple	54.50	57.30
Earnings limit	66.00	70.00
Unemployment benefit		
Single	27.05	28.45
Couple	43.75	46.00
Supplementary benefit (ordinary rate)		
Single	26.80	28.05
Couple	43.50	45.55
Child age 11-15	13.70	14.35
Child under 11	9.15	9.60
Child benefit	6.50	6.85
One parent benefit	4.05	4.25
Mobility allowance	19.00	20.00
Deduction from supplementary benefit paid to strikers' dependants	15.00	16.00

Tunnel traffic 'blow to M25'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Traffic through the Dartford Tunnel is building up so quickly that huge delays seem certain within five years, nullifying time savings from London's M25 orbital route.

The tunnel is a natural M25 bottleneck for traffic from the North to Europe and the Channel ports because it has only four lanes compared with six on each side. That is exacerbated by toll barriers that slow traffic even more.

A 20-minute wait to get through the twin-bore tunnel has been a regular feature during the summer even when things were running smoothly. When an accident occurs the situation rapidly gets worse.

Traffic has risen from 14,000 to 54,000 vehicles a day over 20 years with much faster growth (from 34,000) during the past two years when key parts of the M25 have come into use.

When the M25 is completed in 1986 traffic will rise sharply again, according to the Movement for London roads lobby, reaching 80,000 a day by 1990, compared with a reasonable maximum of 70,000 to 75,000. "We estimate that without a third tunnel, which can hardly be built before the early 1990s there will be by 1988 a 10-minute wait at all times, rising to 20 minutes in the morning

and evening peaks, and 40 to 60 minutes at summer weekends", Mr Jeremy Hawkesley, the movement's secretary says.

The Government is refusing to consider any formal moves for a third tunnel before the M25 is completed, which means at the earliest a 1987 start with completion about 1995.

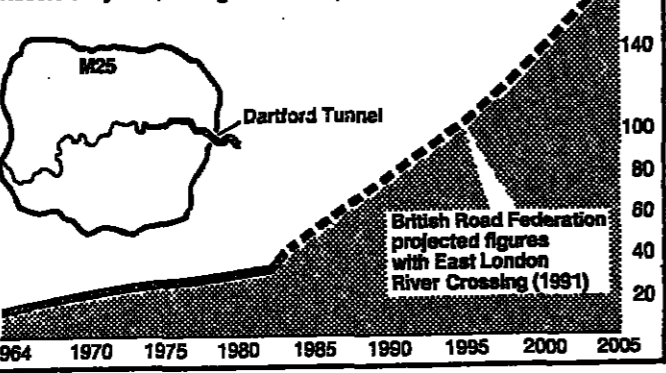
The Government faces a dilemma. It does not want to spend £60 million on a third tunnel; but it does not want a £910 million investment in the M25 frittered away by a

bottleneck. For the present it is pinning hopes on more toll booths and enlarged entrance roads which it claims will increase capacity to between 80,000 and 100,000 vehicles a day by the late 1980s.

The M25 is expected to be opened by the end of 1986 in the following stages: Reigate-Leatherhead-Wisley, next summer; M4-Maple Cross, next spring/summer; Swanley-Sevensands, early 1986; and Middlefield - Green-South Mimms, late next year to late 1986.

DARTFORD TUNNEL TRAFFIC: vehicles per day

Tunnel capacity without significant delay: 65,000
Record daily flow, 24 August 1984: 78,787



BL 2-litre diesel engine on target, Perkins says

Perkins, the Peterborough diesel engine maker, has denied suggestions that its new two-litre unit for BL cars has been delayed. The engine, the first of its type, will be ready for installation in Austin-Rover cars in 1986, the company said (our Industrial Correspondent writes).

BL and Perkins have shared the £22m cost of developing the engine, the first direct injection diesel for cars, which is due to Montego models.

Recent rumours that the engine has been delayed were

followed by the appearance earlier this month at the Turin Motor Show of a Maestro equipped with an Italian-made diesel. The producer, FNM, said it planned to sell 2,000 Maestros a year converted to diesel power with its own 1.3-litre engine. But Perkins said: "We are on schedule to go into production at the end of 1985. It is up to Austin-Rover when they launch the cars."

BL, however, has been late in introducing the diesel and is losing to Ford, Peugeot, and Vauxhall in the rising home market.



One of the five new houses on sale for up to £2.5m

New £2.5m houses go on London market

By Michael Horsnell

Record-breaking prices for speculative developments have been established by five new six-bedroom houses in The Bishop's Avenue, Hampstead, one of the most expensive areas for property in London.

Each of the houses, which are being described by the developers as being in the "style of Edwin Lutyens", the

country house and civic architect, is on sale for between £1.5 million and £2.5 million.

The houses, which share a two-acre plot in an open plan layout without dividing fences, are said by the sole agent, Bentleys of Hampstead, to be excellent investments in a road where the better properties have doubled their value

A Venetian gilt wood figure of a female saint seated on a throne, more than three feet high, went for \$38,500 (estimate \$30,000 to \$40,000) or £31,818 and is also on its way back to Europe. It is attributed to the workshop of Tullio Lombardi, the sixteenth century sculptor.

Another European dealer bid \$40,700 (estimate \$20,000 to \$30,000), or £33,636, to secure a sixteenth century wooden relief carving of the Madonna and St Elizabeth shaking hands in a landscape. The relief, roughly three feet square, is richly gilded and painted and was carved in South Germany, by a follower of Veit Stoss.

Aid switch to 1990s industries demanded

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has been urged by its supporters to end financial support for the new technologies of the 1980s, such as information technology and robots, and to channel taxpayers' money into development as yet untapped by the nation's industrial competitors.

Britain has a "golden opportunity" to steal a march on its industrial rivals, the Conservative Bow Group says, by advanced development of the next generation of industries including ceramics, carbons, engineering plastics, and nuclear fusion which are likely to be the industrial leaders of the 1990s.

In a report published today by the group's industry-standing committee, the Government is criticized for joining the international move of "keeping up with the industrialized Joneses". A second factor holding the Government back from investing in different technologies, it says, is the risk perceived to be inherent in pursuing foreign markets without the security of a large, firm domestic base.

The specific charge against the Government, the report says, is that "while small businesses, the electronics industry, information technology, apple pie, and motherhood are all 'good things', it remains an axiom of economic management that limited funds should not be lightly scattered over all worthy causes but carefully directed to where the greatest advantages will accrue".

The report quotes the example of ceramic car engines, in which Britain's "parochial attitude" has meant that Japan and the United States are developing them, despite any advantage that Britain's technologies originally had.

The report comes after the announcement by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology, of a moratorium on government aid for many high-technology projects.



Stylish team: Pupils at Howsham Hall School, near York, with the 50-year-old Rolls Royce in which the rugby team rides to away matches.

'Anti-racist' maths for schools

"Anti-racist" mathematics is being developed in London schools to make the subject more attractive to ethnic minorities.

Instead of drawing a graph showing how quickly an iceberg melts, children will be asked, for example, to work out the ratio of population to land among different racial groups in South Africa.

The new material, which is being tested in two comprehensive schools, is designed by four teachers

Newcomers top in food guide

By Robin Young

A new generation of fine restaurants has emerged, according to the 1985 edition of the *Good Food Guide*. Half the top distinctions go to recently opened restaurants.

The guide's editor, Mr Drew Smith, says the only area without a proportional increase in good new establishments is London, where eating places have become "fat and lazy, jaded, overpriced and cynical".

Mr Smith offers two explanations. Rents and rates in London drive young, talented chefs to the provinces to open establishments, and French

restaurants, the capital's favourite style, have become such poor value "that the words 'French restaurant' ought to be read like a red neon warning sign: 'Beware: frozen food, inept service, poor sauces, big bill'."

Mr Smith lists 12 annoying practices which spoil meals, including the automatic offer of a selection of vegetables, dishes with nonsensical names, cluttered tables, computerized bills, waiters wearing aftershave and waitresses wearing perfume.

For the first time the guide adopts a system of awarding

points out of 20, originated by the French Gault-Millau guides. Only "serious" restaurants are allowed to score more than 12. Five establishments, all French restaurants, are awarded the highest score of 16 points: Chez Nico; Tante Claire and Le Gavroche in London; the Riverside in Hel-ford, Cornwall; and Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, in Great Milton, Oxfordshire. Raymond Blanc of Quat Saisons is named chef of the year.

The *Good Food Guide* 1985, (Consumers Association and Hodder & Stoughton; £8.95).



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The law's delay: 1

London is 'problem child' in crisis of growing queues for criminal trials

In the first of a three-part series, FRANCES GIBB, Legal Affairs Correspondent, examines the extent of the backlog of cases in the courts and where and why it occurs. Many cases do not come to court for more than six months and delays are getting longer, causing severe overcrowding in the prisons.

Criminal courts in England and Wales are struggling with an unprecedented volume of work. There are long queues at Crown and magistrates' courts, with lengthy delays in bringing defendants to trial.

Many languish in custody for several weeks, causing acute overcrowding in remand prisons and at times a spill-over into police cells.

In the Crown courts, where more serious crimes are handled, the work load has reached record levels. In the past four years commitments for trial have risen by 45 per cent. Last year, cases committed reached a record 73,472.

The Lord Chancellor's Department estimates there will be more than 100,000 commitments by 1990.

Yet Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, caused predictable controversy this year when he suggested that in some cases trial by jury was a luxury we could not afford in terms of money or time. He proposed that the right to jury trial in the case of minor thefts be abolished.

Lord Lane had in mind the "colossal" costs to the taxpayer of providing courts with judges, juries, ushers and heating - often for two days for a case of petty theft, when a similar offence such as alleged travelling by Underground without a ticket has no right to jury trial.

He also had in mind the court backlog. In London, where it is particularly bad, minor thefts now occupy about 14 per cent of court time and their removal

would have a "marked and beneficial" effect, he argued.

That idea was recommended by a committee under Lord Justice James in 1975 and then, as now, there was an outcry from those who see it as an unacceptable inroad into the right to trial by peers for a crime which can severely damage a person's reputation.

But since 1975, the work of the criminal courts has steadily risen. One indication is the size of the remand population. In the past decade untried and unsentenced persons constituted the fastest growing sector of the prison population. Four years ago, the average daily number of prisoners on remand awaiting trial or sentence was 5,793, or 13.75 per cent of all prisoners.

In January the figures were 8,150 and 19 per cent; 2,100 had been in custody for between three months and a year; 180 for between a year and 18 months and 50 for more than 18 months.

One reason is a huge increase in crime. But there are several other factors; the area; whether the defendant elects trial by jury or magistrates; and whether he or she is remanded in custody or on bail.

Where are the worst delays? When the Home Affairs Committee this year found conflicting evidence: Brixton prison staff thought queues at the Crown courts were the main cause of delays on remand, while the Criminal Bar Association said that at least in

London the main delays were in magistrates' courts.

Despite the courts' increased workload, waiting times have to some extent been held in check. Through more judges and greater efficiency, courts have kept up their disposal rates so that waiting times have dropped for the Crown courts from 17.9 weeks in 1979 to 14.2 weeks last year.

The speed with which courts can deal with cases depends on the proportion of guilty pleas which account for 57 per cent of cases nationally. Defendants pleading guilty wait on average 11 weeks, compared with 20 weeks for not guilty pleas.

London, which accounts for one fifth of cases committed for trial has the lowest guilty plea rate, at 39 per cent while the North-east consistently has the highest, 79 per cent last year. Delays in London, therefore, are far higher than elsewhere, at 20 weeks and 27 weeks respectively for guilty and not guilty pleas.

But waiting times are also determined by whether the defendant is in custody or on bail. Last year, those in custody waited 10 weeks on average, compared with 15 for those on bail.

In London therefore, described by Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, as the problem child, delays are roughly twice anywhere else and in custody cases twice, he says, what he would like them to be.

There can also be further delays at the trial stage. A recent survey of cases delayed for more than 16 weeks showed that the largest single reason was: related charges pending (25 per cent); witness difficulties, mainly prosecution (17 per cent); defence delay (9 per cent); and court resources (9 per cent). Tomorrow: What can be done in the Crown courts.



Devotion and bravery: Khan, the police dog, and its handler, PC Allen Bratchell, yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Charity honours distinguished dogs

A police dog, a life-saving Jack Russell terrier, and a dog from which more than 500 guide dogs for the blind were bred, were honoured yesterday by the charity PRO-Dogs.

Best known is Khan, the three-year-old Alsatian police dog seriously injured in a car

accident while chasing two suspects in Croydon, Surrey.

Its handler, Police Constable Alan Bratchell, stationed at Croydon, received a gold medal for the animal.

Khan was hit by a car during the chase and its head was trapped near the wheel. When

PC Bratchell lifted up the vehicle the determined dog resumed the pursuit. It finally cornered the men in a garden. The award for life-saving went to Judy, a Jack Russell terrier, for breaking a rule it had been trained to obey by its owner's wife.

Mr Joseph Bennet, a disabled pensioner, was alone in his bungalow with Judy when the fire broke out. He was in the bathroom, part of the house that Judy was forbidden to enter, but when the animal's first barks of alarm went unheeded it went to find him.

Peers seek to prevent television experiment

A last-ditch attempt to stop the televising of the House of Lords, due to start in January for an experimental six-month period, is to be made this week by a group of peers led by Lord Chalfont, the former Labour minister (our Political Reporter writes).

Although the Lords has already voted in favour of the principle of an experiment, and is tomorrow expected to approve the conditions under which it will be conducted, Lord

Chalfont has tabled an amendment which would prevent it going ahead until the Commons has decided to hold an experiment of its own.

There were fears in the Lords that the latent opposition in the House may be greater than was indicated by the original vote. The television lights have been installed for the experiment and will be switched on during Tuesday's debate. A camera will also be in place, although not in use.

Education aid idea for over-16s

Business managers would like young people over 16 to be paid an allowance to carry on education after leaving school, according to a report published today (Lucy Hodges writes).

That recommendation from the British Institute of Management is in *Action on Education*, which launches a three-year programme to bring education and industry closer. Other proposals are for a national co-ordinating body to develop education after 16; a broader secondary school curriculum to meet industry's needs; money for management education in universities and polytechnics; and the inclusion of work experience in degree courses.

Bill for car racing in city streets

Birmingham aims to become the first British city to stage Monaco-style international motor racing in its streets if Parliament approves a private member's Bill (Craig Seton writes).

The City of Birmingham Council Motor Race Bill would allow streets in the city to be closed for big motor racing events annually, starting on August Bank holiday weekend, 1986. The Bill is being delivered to the city's four MPs at the House of Commons by a civic delegation tomorrow. After it is presented and scrutinized, city leaders hope it will pass all its stages and receive the Royal Assent by next summer.

Birmingham councillors approved of the idea of international motor racing as a tourist event by 90 votes to 13.

Paper distorted astrology findings

A report in the *News of the World* about astrological research exaggerated and distorted its findings, the Press Council ruled yesterday.

The council upheld a complaint by Mr M. Hutchinson, of Crescent View, Loughton, Essex, that the article grossly distorted the findings of a research study, incorrectly claiming positive results to lend spurious support to astrology. A report headlined "Your ideal job shines in the stars" by Geraldine Hosier said stargazers should be over the moon because the ancient art of astrology had won scientific backing.

Sceptics who scoffed at the notion that the stars shaped our destiny had to think again now that a survey of more than two million people in Britain had shown that the job one did could be linked to the star sign one was born under, it said. According to the report, the result of research carried out by Professor Alan Smithers of Manchester University, showed a startling similarity between astrologers' predictions of which career people from each star sign would tend to follow and facts of birth dates and jobs from the national census fed into a computer. Mr Hutchinson complained

to the editor that the report was distorted. The study did not support astrology, as claimed, and statements from the report had been taken out of context in an effort to lend credence to it, he said. He said that when Professor Smithers referred to "a mass of extraordinary data" he did not say it related to astrology, as the report implied. Mr Nicholas Lloyd, the editor, replied that the newspaper only suggested there could be a link between birth date and job, and the piece was presented as entertainment. He did not believe readers would have been misled.

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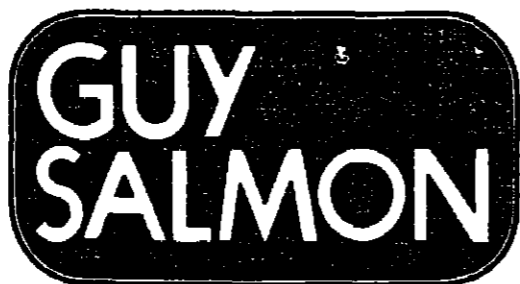


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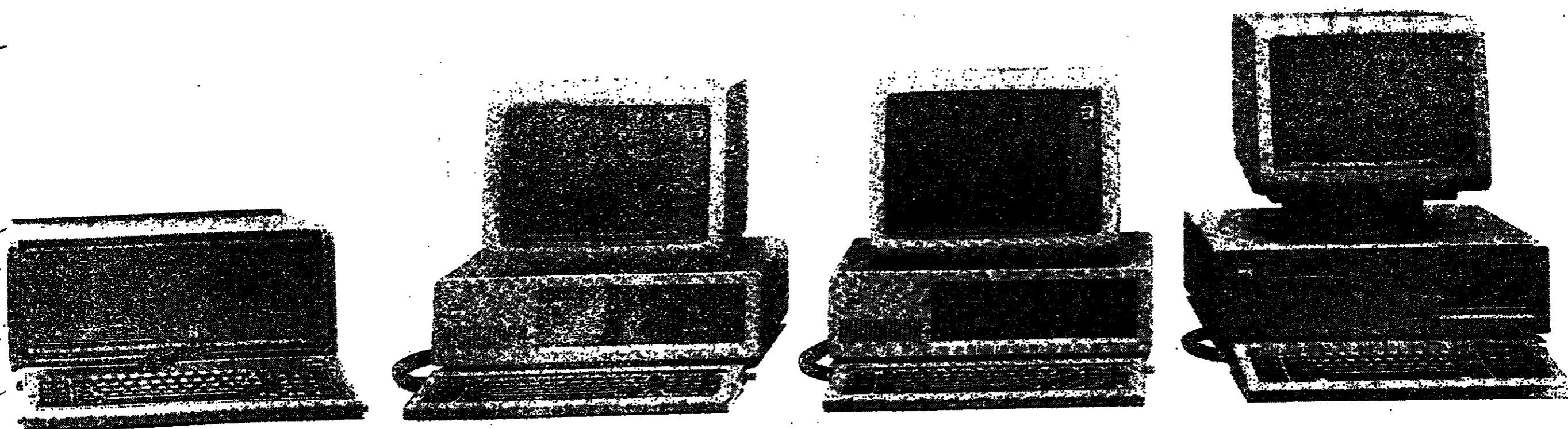
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Committee power battles overshadow vote for Senate majority leader

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Fifty-three Republican senators will meet behind closed doors on Wednesday morning to elect a successor to Senator Howard Baker as majority leader in the upper house.

The election is important not only because the job is one of the most influential in Washington, but also because of the chain reaction it will set off within key Senate committees.

Between Wednesday and the opening of the 99th Congress next January, there will be much discreet but very determined elbowing for position on the part of the various committees handling finance, foreign affairs, agriculture and energy.

The way many senators vote on Wednesday will be decided as much by who they do or do not want to see take over those committees as by who they want as majority leader.

Senator Baker, who is retiring to prepare his attempt for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988, is considered one of the finest Senate majority leaders in recent years. He played a key role in pushing President Reagan's programme through Congress.

His successor's task will be more difficult because the Republican majority has been



Senator Baker: Tougher times for his successor.

reduced from ten to six after the November 6 election. It is likely also that the Republicans will lose control of the upper house in the 1986 congressional elections.

There are five contenders for the job: Senator Robert Dole (Kansas), Senator Richard Lugar (Indiana), Senator James McClellan (Idaho), Senator Ted Stevens (Alaska) and Senator Pete Domenici (New Mexico).

Senator Dole is considered the front-runner. He is one of the best tacticians in the Senate and won national attention when he was President Ford's running mate in 1976 and briefly sought the Republican presidential nomination in 1980.

However, he has an acerbic personality and has offended conservatives in his present capacity as chairman of the tax-writing finance committee.

Senator Lugar is the second choice of many Republican senators and could emerge as the compromise candidate between left-wing and right-wing factions. Whereas Senator Dole is considered by some to be too assertive, Senator Lugar is considered too deferential.

Some may be deterred from voting for Senator Dole by the knowledge that his election would allow the chairmanship of the finance committee to fall into the hands of Senator Bob Packwood, a liberal who has often been a bitter critic of the Reagan Administration.

Similarly, conservatives may avoid voting for Senator Lugar because this could open the way for Senator Charles Mathias, one of the most liberal members, to take over the foreign relations committee.

So far, the White House has kept well clear of the race and carefully avoided tilting its cap at any candidate. But senators will be looking at the way Senator Paul Laxalt votes because he is the President's closest friend in the Senate and will opt for someone with whom Mr Reagan believes he can work well with during his second term.



Franco remembered: Fascist salutes framing a portrait of General Francisco Franco as 100,000 right-wingers marched through Madrid yesterday to mark the ninth anniversary of his death. There were about 100 arrests at the demonstration, the second in eight days against Spain's socialist Government: the first was against education reforms.

Spain prepares for final push on EEC

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain begins this week's "final assault" on the EEC in Brussels, as a prelude to the Dublin summit, judging that only political will-power by the Ten can save its application for membership from failure.

The Spanish Government is still hoping for a January 1986 entry date, but Señor Miguel Boyer, the powerful Economics and Finance Minister, has prepared domestic opinion by warning of the "grave risk" that Spanish integration in Europe will be blocked.

He knows, however, that Spain, with 50 per cent of its exports going to EEC countries, has nowhere else to go.

The spectacle of Spain these past few months battering at the

EEC's door has underlined how much the politics of entry now outweigh other considerations. In place of the proper EEC markets opened to Spain by its 1970 treaty with the Community, while its own industrial sector remained highly protected, these months have seen countries such as France bricking up their markets just a little more surely against Spanish competition.

Paradoxically, thanks to a devaluing peseta, Spanish exports during the first 10 months of this year have grown by 23 per cent, according to official figures, compared with 1983. Agricultural exports increased by about 20 per cent.

● BRUSSELS: The enlarge-

ment negotiations have snarled up in a classic kind of EEC linking process (Ian Murray writes). The only way the links can be uncoupled is by finding a way of solving Europe's chronic wine problem.

France insists that the existing members must sort out a proper wine regime before Spain joins, but there are two huge obstacles. The Italians refuse to accept any kind of reform beyond payments to farmers who are prepared to dig up their vines. They believe a ban on sugaring wine would reduce quantities.

The West Germans refuse to allow any system which does not give them the right to go on sugaring their vines.

This is where the links begin. There are two other big dossiers which have to be sorted out between the present EEC members before they have a common position to put to the two would-be members. These cover fishing and fruit and vegetables.

The West Germans alone are holding out against agreement on a system for phasing Iberian fruit and vegetable production into the Community.

The Italians alone are holding out against a fishing agreement, and it is likely they will continue to do so until they see a new wine regime in place which leaves its growers unaffected and puts an end to sugaring.

Arafat gets cool over book trip to London

Amman (Reuters) - Mr Yasser Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, is keen to go to London to meet British officials and discuss the plight of his people but is too busy to go there "just to sign books," his spokesman said.

He was commenting on the news that the publishers of a new Arafat biography had withdrawn an invitation for him to come to London for the visit will endanger staff.

Asked which officials the PLO chief would like to meet, the spokesman said the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary.

Crash kills four newlyweds

Ankara (Reuters) - A double wedding of two brothers to two sisters turned to tragedy when the coach carrying the wedding party collided in fog with a lorry north of Ankara, killing all four newlyweds and 27 other people.

The weddings were at Beira on the Black Sea coast and the party was travelling the 350 miles to Istanbul for a reception.

Chile round-up

Santiago (AFP) - Seventy more Chileans were arrested in weekend raids by police and troops against opponents of General Pinochet's military regime, a human rights committee spokesman said. Since November 6 close to 1,400 people have been rounded up.

Whales perish

Wellington (AFP) - Twenty-seven whales among a school of 60 which beached themselves near Dunedin died despite efforts by hundreds of volunteers to save them. The rest were kept alive until high tide, when they were pushed back into the sea.

Beagle vote

Buenos Aires - Argentines voted in a referendum on the Vatican-backed treaty proposed to settle differences with Chile on the Beagle channel. The plebiscite was also the first big test of the Alfonsín Government's popularity.

Theatre bomb

Paris (AFP) - Five pedestrians were injured when a bomb exploded outside the Salle Pleyel concert hall here shortly before the opening of a show to mark the sixty-fourth anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Soviet Republic.

100-hour shift

Belgrade (AP) - Four miners in the Zenica region of Yugoslavia came to the surface after digging coal for 100 hours without a break. "We wanted to show loafers how long you can work," their leader said.

Embassy attack

Lisbon (AP) - Four 60mm mortar grenades were fired at the US Embassy in Lisbon, slightly damaging three embassy cars. It was thought they were fired from a passing vehicle.

Lenin's nephew

Moscow (Reuters) - Victor Ulanov, son of Vladimir Lenin's younger brother Dmitry, died here aged 67. He spent his spare time working in the museum dedicated to his uncle.

Contras chief who upset Washington is ousted

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

One of the principal leaders of the US-backed Nicaraguan rebel movement has been ousted after embarrassing the Reagan administration with disclosures about a CIA manual which advised guerrillas to "neutralize" certain Nicaraguan Government officials.

The rebels almost certainly came under US pressure to remove Señor Edgar Chamorro, who lives in Key Biscayne, Florida, from the seven-member national directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). The organization was formed with heavy CIA involvement in 1982 to fight the Sandinistas, who took power in a revolution in 1979.

The United States retains a strong psychological grip on the FDN, although Congress voted last February to end American funding. The last of the US money is believed to have run out in the summer, but the organization claims to be receiving substantial support from other sources. Some direct CIA involvement almost certainly continues.

The six other members of the FDN directorate apparently voted unanimously for Señor Chamorro's expulsion.

His disclosures about the CIA manual led to disciplinary action being taken against CIA officials who had helped to draft it. President Reagan said the word "neutralize" meant removal from office, not assassination. It became an embarrassing issue towards the end of the US election campaign.

Nordic zone free of nuclear arms sought

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

The five-nation conference on a Nordic nuclear-weapon-free zone ended its weekend session here yesterday with a call to Scandinavian governments to work urgently for a formal ban on nuclear arms throughout the territories, waters and airspace of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, respected and guaranteed by treaty with the superpowers.

A final communiqué from the conference which was attended by 225 politicians, parliamentarians, trade unionists, church leaders and peace youth activists of every political observance from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland also stated that a Nordic nuclear ban was the greatest contribution Scandinavia could make towards the eventual

Iraqis press for Iran's expulsion from Red Cross

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraqi newspapers have demanded Iran's expulsion from the International Red Cross as punishment for maltreatment of Iraqi prisoners of war.

"Tehran's expulsion is the minimum punishment to expose its crime," the ruling Ba'ath Party newspaper, *Al-Thawra*, said yesterday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said last week that Iran was violating the Geneva Convention and putting at risk the "physical and mental survival" of Iraqi prisoners.

The international committee which has suspended activity in Iran since a riot at a POW camp last month, appealed to all signatories to press Iran to respect the convention.

Euphoria as Uruguay goes to polls

From Douglas Tweedale
Montevideo

Uruguay began to set aside 11 years of military rule yesterday as citizens voted euphorically in the first general election since 1971.

Early forecasts in an election reported free of violence indicated a tightly-contested race between the candidates of the traditional middle-class parties, Señor Julio Sanguinetti, of the Colorado Party and the

Blanco Party choice, Señor Alberto Zambrano. Western diplomats are predicting Señor Sanguinetti to win by a narrow margin.

The winner is scheduled to take over from the military on March 1.

Political observers say that the left-wing Frente Amplio (broad front), a coalition of five parties ranging from Christian Democrats to Communists, is expected to win an unre-

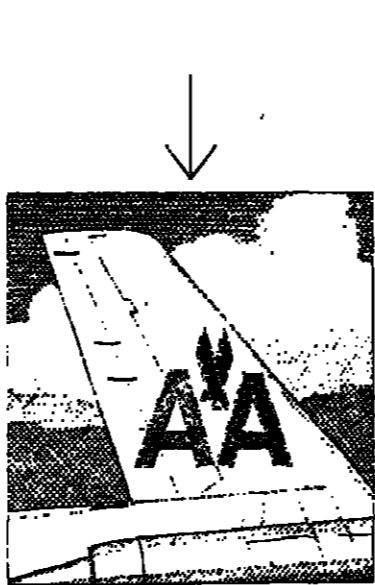
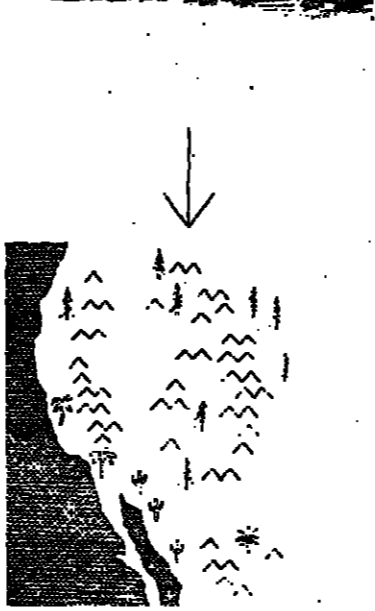
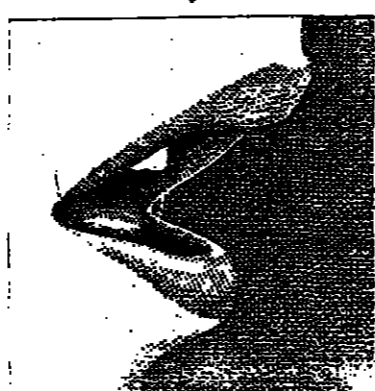
precedented victory in the capital, Montevideo, which contains half the country's population.

Señor Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, charismatic leader of the centre-left Blanco Party, would have been his party's candidate had he not been arrested by the military government last June.

Also excluded was General Lider Seregni, of the Frente Amilo, imprisoned until March for his opposition to the military government, he is still banned from political activity.

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American Airlines
Something special in the air

Ethiopia: Where the aid goes

Hunger for means to survive

From Thomson Prentice, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's hunger is for more than simply food. To stay alive, one of the world's poorest countries also needs the tools to feed itself. Chronically unable to cope on its own, it looks for help increasingly to foreign powers East and West.

Yet impoverished as it is, Ethiopia is the lowest recipient of foreign aid anywhere in the world. The average aid throughout Africa amounts to about \$13 per capita per year, while in Ethiopia the figure is a mere \$6.

Ethiopia's main source of Western aid is, perhaps surprisingly, the EEC, with Britain's contributions to the Community aid programme a disproportionately high one fifth.

But what is the money spent on, and is it spent wisely? What projects does the EEC fund, and how does it choose the priorities?

At present Ethiopia is the largest recipient of Community aid, with projects worth about \$84m being developed. They range from the biggest the EEC has ever funded anywhere, a \$32m water supply system for Addis Ababa, and a \$22m hydroelectric power scheme involving the diverting of the Amari river to building a 185-mile road west of the capital at a cost of \$15.5m, upgrading the obsolete railway line between Addis Ababa and Djibouti, costing \$15m, to many small-scale local schemes.

Inevitably there are problems, snags, delays. A visit to

the waterworks in Addis Ababa does not inspire confidence that the scheme will be completed on schedule by next August. Formerly a racecourse where Emperor Haile Selassie watched his favourite horses from the royal box, it is now a sunbaked wasteland from which four giant concrete tanks have risen, each capable of holding 5,000 cubic metres of water.

Four smaller tanks have still to be built and linked to a water treatment plant 12 miles away by pipes for which the trenches have already been dug. The work is being done by a West German firm, Josef Kiepel of Munich. The site engineer Herr Alphonse Rasch, assured me that the job would be finished on time by the 30 Germans and up to 400 local labourers. But he acknowledged that there had been problems since work began last August. Bureaucratic snags held up the handover of the racecourse by the local authority until the end of the year. The first ship transporting steel pipes and pipe-fitting at the port of Assab, and then there were delays in transporting pipes and other supplies from the port to Addis Ababa 400 miles inland.

Almost all projects stumble into such difficulties, which are compounded by poor roads, lack of fuel and equipment and bad communications.

An EEC interim report on one project building power-cables between the capital and

Korambolcha, 185 miles north-east, notes: "Due to the late start and the continuing difficulties in obtaining certain local items such as cement, it appears unlikely that the project can be completed by the original completion date of April 1985". Funding for the project was approved in November 1982.

A rural water-supply project started in 1978 and due to run for five years has been extended another year.

All major projects are invariably carried out by European companies which sub-contract some of the local work. The purse-strings remain firmly in the control of Brussels. Most of each project's cost is provided in grants with a small proportion in low-interest loans. However, the Ethiopian administration receives high praise from the EEC for its general efficiency in co-operating on such projects. Mr Karl Harbo, the EEC economic adviser in Ethiopia, says: "This country is the fastest in utilizing money to get projects started. They are very keen to get on with the job, and many of the delays are beyond their control".

Few of the present schemes, however, seem likely to increase the country's critical levels of food production. Investment in agriculture is minimal, and the reasons are obvious: the West is frankly unenthusiastic about the collec-

tivization of farms in Marxist-Leninist Ethiopia.

Mr Harbo says: "The system doesn't work. It has been tried and had disastrous results in other countries. Why should we pour money into things we know will be a mistake? Would the taxpayers of Europe thank us for that?"

The crucial word in negotiating projects and giving cash is, in Western diplomatic jargon, "conditionality". One Western diplomat said: "We try to identify a sector of the country where we think we can help. But we expect the Ethiopian Government to allow an element of free market to survive. It boils down to us saying that if we are going to help raise your living standards, we expect you to move your policies in that way we see as the right direction."

Just how much Ethiopia, supported by the Soviet bloc, is prepared to acknowledge the merits of "conditionality" is unclear. Diplomatic sources are at great pains, however, to distinguish between long-term aid and humanitarian aid. "Long-term aid has to be conditional," one diplomat said, "but there are no strings attached to emergency aid when people are starving to death."

EEC aid to Ethiopia is to be renewed next year and all signs point to substantial increases. Mr Harbo said: "Ethiopia's food self-sufficiency must be the highest priority and there is



The search for water: A drought victim finds relief at a camp at Mekele, Tigre province, but various EEC-funded schemes will eventually help to alleviate the problem.

nobody who is unwilling to help achieve that goal. The difficulty is do we try to do the way the Ethiopians think best, or the way we think best? Unfortunately, that is bound to result in conflicts. In the meantime building roads, power stations and water installations is helping to make the country more productive and more able to divert its own resources to important health and nutritional projects."

40,000 face expulsion in Chinese purge

Peking (AFP) - China's Communist Party this weekend issued the guidelines for a purge of senior officials, aimed at "leftists" and those in provinces which have resisted economic reform.

In a statement carried by the main daily newspapers, the party's Central Committee said all leading party members would have to re-register to stay in office, and submit their political records to fresh scrutiny.

The purge, covering Peking, the provinces and the armed forces, is the first of three stages in a three-year campaign. Later targets will be lower cadres in administration, factories and communes.

The campaign will eventually cover the entire 40 million-strong party, Mr Hu Yaobang, the General Secretary, says about 40,000 party members are targeted for expulsion.

The "leftist" targets are those still committed to Mao Tse-tung's line of class struggle, which reached a frenzied peak in the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when more than half the present membership joined the party. Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman, who has spearheaded the economic reform, has also put corruption and incompetence high on the list of targets.

Re-registration will centre on ideological conduct since 1978, when Mr Deng wrested control from Mao's appointed successor, Mr Hua Guofeng.

Ill Marcos reported to be in isolation

Manila (Reuters, AFP) - President Marcos of the Philippines, who disappeared from public view more than 10 days ago, is in isolation in a specially sanitized guest house at his Malacanang Palace.

Palace sources said yesterday that the President had almost "zero immunity" to infection and this was why he had not been seen in public and had not been meeting people. He had been talking to officials and ministers by telephone.

Dr Eduardo Jamora, presidential physician and pulmonology specialist, said last week he had advised isolation after discovering President Marcos had signs of approaching influenza. The President's sudden retirement from the public eye sparked rumours he was seriously ill or dying. Dr Jamora said on Friday the President was responding well to treatment and that his temperature was normal.

Yesterday he said the President's condition remained stable, although he still had a little asthma.

SIX KILLED: At least six people died and 12 were wounded during a fierce gun battle yesterday between troops and a Muslim family inside a house in the Southern Philippines city of Zamboanga (Keith Dalton writes).

Four members of a military raiding party searching for arms inside the house were among those who died in automatic and machinegun fire.

Army poised to take control of Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The very last and decisive "security plan" for the Lebanese capital - providing for control of the whole broken city by the national Lebanese Army after nine years of civil war - is to be set in motion today.

Troops of three regular army brigades are to be ordered on to the streets of Beirut to take control from at least four different militia groups. The Syrians have sent their Vice-President, Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, to Lebanon for the occasion. His presence may indeed persuade the Muslim militias to remain inactive.

But the operation is really designed to prove that the Lebanese Army can take over security duties in the south of the country when the occupying Israeli Army withdraws. If Beirut descends into anarchy again within days of the Army's arrival, the Israelis are likely to insist that their own private-armed and often undisciplined "South Lebanon Army" militia plays some security role along the Israeli-Lebanese frontier.

If the plan succeeds, it will

mean the advance of the national Army southwards down the coast road to the outskirts of Sidon. This would, in turn, relieve the small Christian Phalangist enclave north of Sidon.

The threat of a massacre of Christians in the tiny Kharroub enclave by Sunni Muslims of the mainly Druze-Progressive Socialist Party would thus be averted.

Experience suggests, however, that the speed of such an advance may not keep pace with the Israelis' desire to retreat further south, perhaps in a month's time, leaving the militias to fight for control of the land to the north of Sidon.

The omens do not look good. Two people were killed in continued fighting between Lebanese troops and Druze militias in the mountains above Beirut yesterday. Soldiers of the largely Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade of the Army opened fire on a floating hulk used by the Phalangists to ferry civilians and militiamen from East Beirut to the Kharroub.

Military fight Israeli arms cuts

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Serious concern about Treasury plans for further swinging defence cuts - in addition to the \$300m (£244m) already trimmed from the military budget - was voiced during an extraordinary session of the Israeli Cabinet yesterday at the headquarters of the general staff in Tel Aviv.

Cuts in Israel's massive military expenditure are regarded by economic experts as pivotal in the national unity Government's uphill struggle to devise a sufficiently harsh austerity package to rescue the country from 1,200 per cent inflation.

Strict secrecy surrounded details of the arguments put forward by the Army, Navy, Air Force and intelligence chiefs, who addressed the meeting. It was declared a session of the Ministerial Defence Committee, the proceedings of which are treated as classified.

Despite the news blackout it is understood that the military chiefs, fighting a rearguard action against proposed further cuts of \$150m, argued that many of Israel's Arab enemies, and notably the Soviet-backed regime in Syria, were modernizing their armed forces. It was argued that Israel had to match that action if its "qualitative edge" was to be maintained.

Before the lengthy session opened, there were reports of a possible compromise between Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, which would keep the reduction in military spending to around \$100m.

The session followed signs of a new and potentially damaging rift between Mr Peres and Mr Ariel Sharon, Minister of Trade and Industry, who is in New York fighting a libel action against Time magazine.

Officials yesterday attempted to play down an Israeli radio report that Mr Peres had accused Mr Sharon, a contender for the post of next leader of the Likud block, of doing everything in his power to bring down the Government. Angry Likud politicians called yesterday for a retraction.

Mitterrand heads for Syria

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand leaves Paris today for a three-day official visit to Syria at the invitation of President Assad. It is the first official visit to the former French mandated territory by a French head of state since Syria became independent in 1943, and coincides with the fourteenth anniversary of President Assad's arrival in power.

Conversations between the two presidents are expected to range widely over the whole of the Middle East issue, including Lebanon, where Syria continues to occupy 40 per cent of the country; the Iran-Iraq war in which Syria supports Iran while France supports Iraq; Arab-Israeli relations; and the Palestinian question.

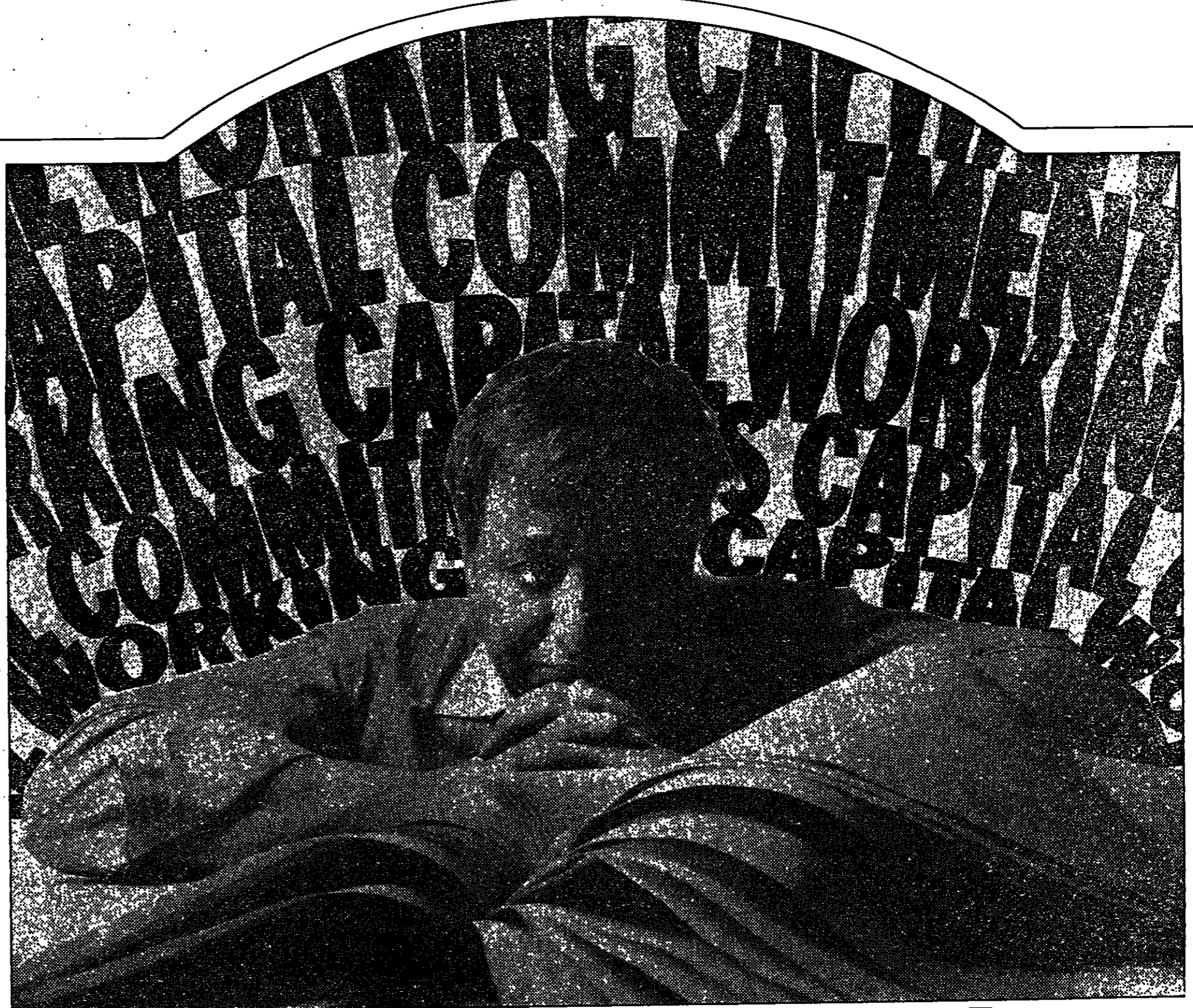
Chad, where France is still waiting for the completion of the Libyan withdrawal, may also be on the agenda.

Although there are suggestions from Damascus about the possibility of the discussions paving the way for a new European peace initiative in the Middle East, officials in Paris were more cautious about the likelihood of the visit producing spectacular results.

Mr Michel Dauzelle, the Elysée Palace spokesman, said: "It is more than a fact-finding visit, but it would be imprudent to talk of a new peace initiative."

Although Syria has always been seen as playing a key role in the Middle East conflict, President Mitterrand has put off a visit until now because of incidents which have caused serious frictions in Franco-Syrian relations including most recently, France's participation in the multinational force in Beirut.

In September 1981 the French Ambassador to Beirut was assassinated in a Syrian-controlled sector of the city. In April 1982 the Syrians were suspected of being behind the terrorist attack against Jews in the Rue Marboeuf in Paris, in which one person was killed and 63 were injured. Syrian involvement was also suspected in the bomb attack against the French contingent of the multinational force in Beirut a year ago.



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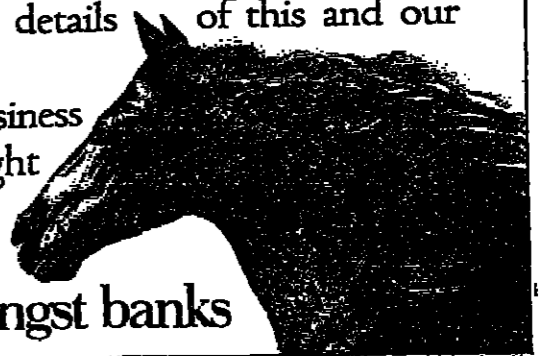
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Mystery over Gorbachov grows as plenum is cancelled by Chernenko

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Chernenko's decision not to convene the Central committee in plenary session today - in defiance of Soviet practice for the past 20 years - has puzzled Kremlin watchers.

Mr Chernenko made the major economic speech he would normally have delivered at the plenum today to the enlarged Politburo session. This makes it most unlikely that the Supreme Soviet will produce important personnel or policy changes tomorrow.

Observers noted that there again appeared to be a question mark over Mr Mikhail Gorbachov - at 53, by far the youngest member of the Politburo - after the speculation surrounding his failure to speak at the last plenum in October.

Central Committee sources have said that Mr Gorbachov, the second-in-command and heir apparent to Mr Chernenko, chaired the plenum, which was devoted to agriculture, and therefore could not deliver a report. It is none the less odd that he did not express a view

on agricultural policy, his main Politburo responsibility for four years, especially since the Chernenko policy adopted at the plenum ran directly counter to Mr Gorbachov's own more radical ideas.

Mr Gorbachov, who is said to be on holiday, reappeared on November 7 for the annual Red Square parade, but has since disappeared from view. Official accounts of the enlarged Politburo session - seen as a mini-plenum - listed all those who attended, an unusual move apparently designed to draw attention to the fact that neither Mr Gorbachov nor Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, another young Andropov protégé in the leadership, was present. Mr Gorbachov's absence is extraordinary since he has overall control over the economy in the Politburo.

A further pointer came last week when a planned meeting between Mr Gorbachov and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, was cancelled. "Since Gorbachov is going to London next month, you would have thought a meeting with Kinnock was essential," one informed source said.

Sources said the explanation that Mr Gorbachov was on holiday was inadequate. "There is clearly a policy dispute at the top, possibly over the economy - the second most vital issue the Kremlin faces," one source said.

"In his economic speech Mr Chernenko made only passing reference to the Andropov era experiments favoured by the Gorbachov faction."

Diplomats said it was likely that Russia's decision to resume talks with the United States - had caused strains, although it could cause tensions between the Kremlin and senior military officers anxious that hard-won Soviet weaponry might now be "negotiated away". The theory that Mr Chernenko avoided convening the Central Committee in case his leadership came under fire - as happened with the fall of Khrushchev in 1964 - is not widely accepted, since Mr Chernenko's political position appears to be stronger now than at any time in the past ten months.



Seeing the sights: Mr Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, with his wife, Glenys, during a weekend visit to Leningrad. Mr Kinnock is to meet President Chernenko in the Kremlin today.

Reporter may face sedition charge

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A staff journalist of the US news agency Associated Press is undergoing interrogation in Amritsar in the troubled state of Punjab about his story, which was prominently used in *The Times* in June, about the army action at the Golden Temple there.

Mr Brahma Chellaney has been told by his interrogators that they intend to teach him a lesson, and thereby a lesson to other reporters.

Yesterday he was told that he may be charged with sedition, which carries a life sentence.

He has also been told that they will make him disclose the sources of his information "by hook or by crook".

Mr Chellaney, aged 27, has told his bureau in Delhi that his interrogators say their investigation has uncovered a conspiracy between him and Sant Jarnail Bhindranwale, the extremist leader who died in the army action. The accusation would be laughable if it were not for the authorities' apparent determination to punish him for what he wrote.

He is not allowed to be accompanied by a lawyer during his interrogation.

Mr Chellaney is being questioned by Inspector P. N. Mehta of the Punjab police. On two days the inspector was accompanied by army officers. Mr Chellaney says that Mr Mehta has told him the Indian Government is determined to pursue his case, that the questions and instructions are being sent from Delhi, and that they will not allow him to leave Amritsar until they hear from Delhi.

Australia pushes out the canoe to catch its far-flung voters

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

By the time most Australians go to the polls this Saturday thousands of people will already have placed their voting slips in ballot boxes, in some cases up to 12 days before the official polling day.

For the first time, the Australian electoral commission has sent out mobile polling booths run by three-man teams in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales to collect votes from remote mining communities, hamlets, sheep stations and aboriginal communities.

While the teams will not totally replace postal voting, they will visit many communities which until now have relied on the postal vote. The teams will use fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, lorries and four-wheeled vehicles as well as canoes to deliver and collect the sealed, mobile ballot boxes which will be deposited at the nearest electoral division office until Saturday's start of counting.

Five of the teams will be composed of aboriginals or will have aboriginal members who are usually engaged in educating the outback black communities on their voting rights and general voter education.

This election will also be the first for which it has been compulsory for aboriginals to enrol: previously it had been optional.

Mr Paul Anderson, supervisor of the aboriginal election education programme at the electoral commission, believes that the vast majority of aboriginals have been enrolled for Saturday's poll.

In the Northern Territory the mobile polling teams will make more than 100 stops including the newly enfranchised Cocos Islands which voted earlier this year to become part of Australia and for administrative purposes have been included in the Northern Territory for elections.

Various parts of call have been alerted by posters and telephone calls that the mobile teams will be dropping in.

Some idea of the problems facing the electoral officials can be gauged by the fact that the electorate of Kalbarrie in Western Australia, admittedly the largest in the country, covers an area of two-and-a-quarter million square miles of some of the most inhospitable desert and semi-desert in the world. It is a safe Labour seat.

A record 830 candidates have been nominated contesting 148 seats in the House of Representatives and 46 seats in the half-Senate election. The House of Representatives will be contested by 628 candidates and the Senate by 202.

In the old Parliament there were 125 seats in the Lower House, Labour holding 75 and the Coalition 50. In the Senate the 34 places expiring next year and being contested on Saturday together with the extra 12 places, two for each state, are

now held by Labour (16), Coalition (15) and Australian Democrats (3).

The number of candidates contesting Saturday's poll easily exceeds the previous record number which was 765 in last year's election.

The biggest crush of candidates is in Victoria where a field of 197 will contest the state's 39 seats in the House of Representatives, an average of five candidates per seat.

The seat of Wills, held by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, has attracted the largest number of candidates in Victoria with seven people trying to unseat him from what is one of the four safest seats in the state.

The recently formed Nuclear Disarmament Party received a bonus when the draw for places on the Senate ticket gave the party first place. In the past winning first place in the Senate draw has meant that the party in first place has received a one or two per cent "donkey vote", in other words people who just enter their vote from top to bottom and do not follow the preference format given out by the various parties.



STATE OF THE PARTIES AT DISSOLUTION

House of Representatives

Labour	75
Liberals	38
National Party	17

Senate

Labour	30
Liberals	24
National Party	5
Australian Democrats	1
Independent	1

Saturday's election will be the first federal vote to be publicly funded, which probably goes some way to explain why it is costing a record A\$27m (about £18m).

Under public funding a candidate for the House of Representatives who wins 4 per cent or more of the primary vote is entitled to about 60 cents for every vote he receives to pay for his campaign. In the Senate the refund is about 35 cents for every vote. The formula for the refunds is based on the cost-of-living index.

The money for election expenses is paid to the party but is not automatic and must be applied for. In the case of an independent the money is paid directly to the individual if he applies.

There will be 16 parties standing on Saturday and they include such diverse groupings as Call to Australia (Fred Nile) Group, Deadly Serious Party of Australia, Weekend Trading Party and the Pensioner Party of Australia.

SEATS TO BE DECIDED IN EACH STATE

House of Representatives	Senate
VICTORIA Number of seats 39 (33 before redistribution)	7 seats (5)
Labour 23	Labour 3
Liberals 7	Liberals 2
National Party 3	
NEW SOUTH WALES 51 seats (43)	7 seats (5)
Labour 24	Labour 2
Liberals 11	Laboral/National Party 2
National Party 8	Australian Democrats 1
QUEENSLAND 24 seats (19)	7 seats (5)
Labour 10	Labour 2
National Party 6	Liberals 1
Liberals 3	National Party 1
	Australian Democrats 1
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 13 seats (11)	7 seats (5)
Labour 7	Labour 3
Liberals 4	Liberals 2
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 13 seats (11)	7 seats (5)
Labour 8	Labour 2
Liberals 3	Liberals 2
	Australian Democrats 1
TASMANIA 5 seats (5)	7 seats (5)
Liberals 5	Labour 2
	Liberals 3
NORTHERN TERRITORY 1 seat (1)	2 seats (2)
Labour 1	Labour 1
	Liberals 1
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY 2 seats (2)	2 seats (2)
Labour 1	Labour 2
Liberals 1	

Four killed in helicopter attack on Tamil rebels

Colombo - Four separatist Tamil rebels were killed when a Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter fired on four boats carrying about 60 rebels off Batticaloa in the Eastern Province on Saturday evening (Donovan Molloy writes).

Seven of those who swam ashore and disappeared into jungle were arrested yesterday in a combined services operation.

According to official sources, interrogation revealed that the rebels were planning an attack on a police station similar to that in Northern Chavakachcheri last Tuesday in which 27 policemen and three other people died. A large quantity of arms was recovered.

Meeting today on Korean border shooting

Seoul (Reuters) - North Korea and the American-led United Nations Command (UNC) have agreed to hold a meeting of the military armistice commission today to discuss Friday's border gun battle in which four Korean soldiers died.

A command spokesman said the commission would meet in the border village of Panmunjom. It will deal with charges made by the two sides over the shooting when a Soviet citizen, Mr Vasily Yakovlevich Matuzok, aged about 22, crossed the military demarcation line between North and South Korea.

Three North Korean troops and one South Korean soldier were killed.

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HALIFAX THE WORLD'S NO.1

House of Lords

Law Report November 26 1984

Queen's Bench Division

Making claim not condition of invalidity pension entitlement

Insurance Officer v McCaffrey
Before Lord Slynn, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Diplock, Lord Hogg and Lord Brightman

[Speeches delivered November 22]

A claimant who satisfied the statutory conditions set out in section 36 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975 was entitled to a non-contributory invalidity pension; the making of a claim pursuant to section 79(1) of the Act was not a condition precedent to entitlement.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by an insurance officer from a decision of the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland.

Section 36 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person shall be entitled to a non-contributory invalidity pension for any day on which he is incapable of work, if he has been so incapable for a period of not less than 196 consecutive days ending immediately before that day..."

Section 79 provides: "(1)... it shall be a condition of a person's right to any benefit that he makes a claim for it in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time."

[The above provisions are in substantially the same terms as the

legislation which governs social security elsewhere in the United Kingdom.]

Mr W. A. Campbell, QC and Mr Charles McKay (both of the Northern Ireland Bar) for the insurance officer, Mr Patrick Markey, QC and Mr Francis Farrelly (both of the Northern Ireland Bar) for the claimant.

February 10, 1981 the claimant, Miss Margaret McCaffrey made a claim for a non-contributory invalidity pension. She had attained pensionable age on April 15, 1980.

The insurance officer refused her claim because she had failed to show that she was entitled to the pension under the conditions set by the section.

If there was no guide to entitlement other than section 36, the claimant succeeded; she had met the conditions set by the section.

The insurance officer recognized that unless he could find elsewhere in the statute a condition not mentioned in section 36 restricting pensionable age he would be bound to grant the pension.

He found such a condition in section 79(1) of the Act.

Section 79 dealt with the administration of social security benefits. Section 36 did not deal with entitlement. Section 79(1) was therefore an unlikely place in which to find rules governing entitlement to benefit.

The effect of section 79 was that no award might be made unless a benefit was claimed. The making of a claim was, therefore, a

condition of a right to be paid the benefit.

The insurance officer submitted that section 79(1) modified the effect of section 36(1) so that there was no entitlement until a claim had been made.

It was submitted that the claimant had failed to make a claim before she attained pensionable age; she could not show, as section 36(4) required, that she was entitled to the pension immediately before she attained that age.

The submission was, in his Lordship's view, totally misconceived. First, entitlement was governed by section 36. The section did not define entitlement by reference to the making of a claim or require a claim to be a condition precedent to entitlement.

Second, section 79(1) had to be construed so as to be consistent with the entitlement which was created by section 36 and not vice versa. Any other approach made nonsense of section 36.

Third, section 79(1) did not speak of "entitlement". It merely declared that if to be a "condition of a person's right to any benefit that he makes a claim".

Accordingly, his Lordship read section 79(1) as having the following effect: a claimant not only had to show the existence of an entitlement but had also to make a claim in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time in order that he might be paid.

That construction avoided introducing a restriction upon entitlement not to be found in section 36 and made sense of section 79(1) as a provision dealing with the administration of benefit.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Diplock, Lord Roskill and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DHSS, for Solicitor's Department (Health and Social Services Division), Belfast; Hyton-Potts for Vincent B. Maguire & Co., Enniskillen.

Registrar's certificate liable to judicial review

Regina v Registrar of Companies, Ex parte Eas (Companities) Ltd (in liquidation)

Before Mr Justice Mervyn Davies

[Judgment delivered November 13]

In ordinary litigation a certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies by virtue of section 98(2) of the Companies Act 1948 was conclusive evidence that the requirements for registration of a charge under section 95(1) of the 1948 Act had been complied with, but that was not the case in judicial review proceedings.

An order for certiorari lay where the registrar in error of law allowed himself to consider particulars delivered out of time thus usurping a jurisdiction he did not have.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in granting to Eas (Companities) Ltd (in liquidation), an order of certiorari for quashing a decision of the Registrar of Companies on a date unknown to register an alleged charge dated February 8, 1984, by Eas in favour of Allied Arab Bank Ltd and to give a certificate of such registration.

Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr James Murray for Eas; Mr John Wilmer, QC and Mr Antonio Bueno for Central Bank of India, Middle East Bank Ltd and David Deja (TA) London and Overseas Sugar Co; Miss Mary Aiden for Allied Arab Bank; Mr John Mummery for the Registrar of Companies.

MR JUSTICE MERVYN DAVIES said that a winding-up order against the company was made by Mr Justice Harman on November 7, 1984.

The Allied Arab Bank considered that the effect of seven requests for documentary credits and a letter dated February 9, 1984, was to create a charge registrable pursuant to section 95 which was a matter yet to be determined by the Court of Appeal.

It appeared that the Court of Appeal would be bound by the certificate issued by the registrar; see section 98(2). Less than should inhibit their prospects of appeal the company and the additional respondents desired to challenge the validity of the registrar's certificate.

It was the Allied Arab Bank not the company (despite section 96) that had applied for registration. There was a controversy about what and when documents were sent to the registrar.

His Lordship found that Form 47, referred to as "mark 1" and supporting documents were lodged in the Companies Registration Office on February 29, 1984. However, since those were considered to be unsatisfactory by the registrar another Form 47 "mark 2" was submitted with the same other documents as before, on March 29.

The mark 2 Form 47 was dated February 29 when plainly it was completed after that date, but on or before March 29. The registrar received the documents on March 29, 1984, could be regarded as having been given in the course of the original application dated February 29, 1984.

At first sight certiorari lay against the registrar; see *O'Reilly v Mackman* [1983] 2 AC 237, 279F. The registrar was a person having authority to make decisions; see *National Provincial Bank v Charnley* [1993] 1 KB 431, 444F.

The registrar's decisions when deciding what should be put on the register seemed to involve determining questions affecting the rights of other persons as individuals; in the case of section 95 the rights of secured creditors as against those of unsecured creditors. Such decisions could be quashed for error in law; see *O'Reilly v Mackman*.

What was an error of law in this context, explained in *Lord Diplock's speech in In re Racal Communications Ltd* [1981] AC 374, 382F. So the decision of the

registrar might be reviewed if it could be shown he had made his decision in error; see *Re Yalland, Hutton and Birkett Ltd* (at p158) and *In re C. L. Nye Ltd* (at pp469, 474D) showed that it had been appreciated that the reason the legislature had made a section 98(2) certificate conclusive must have been that certainty was desired in the interests of commercial convenience.

The registrar had posed to himself a wrong and important question. In effect he asked himself whether or not having been dissatisfied with the particulars sent in on February 29 he could nevertheless proceed to register if revised particulars were sent in after that date. He answered that question in the affirmative.

It was plain that the registrar had asked himself the wrong question when he effected registration. It followed, so far, that certiorari lay.

From that *prima facie* position section 98(2) had to be considered. That subsection had been the subject of discussion in *In re Yalland, Hutton and Birkett Ltd* [1981] 1 Ch 152; *National Provincial Bank v Charnley* [1993] 1 KB 431, 444F; *Ch 1052*; *Mechanisations (Bagley-cliff) Ltd* [1966] Ch 20 and *In re C. L. Nye Ltd* [1971] Ch 442 which all showed that in ordinary litigation there could be no assertion that the "prescribed particulars" had not been delivered or not delivered in time once a section 98(2) certificate had been issued; even when it could be proved or it was apparent that there was no, or no sufficient, delivery of particulars or that the delivery was out of time.

The question before his Lordship was whether, notwithstanding the position in ordinary litigation, that conclusiveness of a section 98(2) certificate could be questioned in judicial review proceedings; that is, could the action of the registrar be reviewed with a view to showing that the certificate he had issued ought not to have been issued because the particulars mentioned in section 95(1) had not been sent to him or not sent to him sufficiently or not sent in time.

Mr Mummery pointed out that *In re Yalland, Hutton and Birkett Ltd* (at p158) and *In re C. L. Nye Ltd* (at pp469, 474D) showed that it had been appreciated that the reason the legislature had made a section 98(2) certificate conclusive must have been that certainty was desired in the interests of commercial convenience.

It was desirable in the interests of future lenders that the registrar was not questioned and in the interests of a charge that a section 98(2) certificate was not questioned. The mischief sought to be avoided by section 98(2) - commercial uncertainty - would be brought alive if judicial review was allowed.

There was then the consideration that this was not a case where judicial review was sought to assert the rights of a person only *qua* individual but the rights of a company in its commercial dispute with a bank claiming to be its charge.

Thus the same reasons as made the certificate and hence the registration unassailable in ordinary litigation applied with the same force in judicial review.

Against that it was said: it was equally desirable that outside such litigation there should be in the public interest a means of correcting any excess of jurisdiction on the part of the registrar. A policy of certainty would not be seriously undermined by allowing certiorari since judicial review was subject to the three-month time limit mentioned in Order 53, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and there was also the discretion to refuse when substantial hardship or prejudice would arise; see section 11(6) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Having weighed the considerations his Lordship had no doubt that the policy of commercial certainty must give way to the policy that the decisions of public officials ought to be subject to such

scrutiny as was indicated in *O'Reilly v Mackman*.

His conclusion was that certiorari lay in the instant case if there could be shown an error of law; see *R v IRC, Ex parte Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses Ltd* [1982] AC 617, 639F.

Section 14(1) of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 was of no relevance because since section 98(2) did not exclude certiorari the applicants did not have to rely on section 14(1).

On the evidence his Lordship did not think that there were on February 29 "prescribed particulars" of the charge sought to be registered and they were therefore defective. It was clear that the registrar considered the particulars sent on February 29 as unsatisfactory and he was right in that view but he then accepted further particulars including the mark 2 Form 47 outside the 21-day period.

In allowing himself to consider particulars delivered out of time the registrar was usurping a jurisdiction that he did not have. Out-of-time application was a matter for the court under section 101. Nowhere in the Act was there any latitude as to time allowed to the registrar.

Section 95 said that a charge was void unless particulars were delivered within 21 days. The registrar could not have authority to accept particulars after that time and then effect a registration because by doing so he would in effect make void a charge that the Act said was void.

It followed that the registrar fell into error as to the extent of his jurisdiction; see *Steeply v Dorsetshire County Council* [1984] 3 All ER 468, 488F.

Solicitors: Tringham, Stocken & Lambert; Freshfields; Norton Rose; Botterell & Roche; Linklaters & Paines; Treasury Solicitor.

Libel trial continues without jury

Gee v British Broadcasting Corporation and Others
Gee v Blackwood
Gee v Mitchell

Before Lord Justice Croom-Johnson

[Judgment delivered November 20]

Under Order 33, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court had power in the course of the trial of a claim in libel and slander to vary the order for a jury trial made on the summons for directions; and to discharge the jury and order that the trial continue before the judge alone.

Lord Justice Croom-Johnson, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when granting an application by the plaintiff, Dr Sidney Gee, for the jury to be discharged and for the case to continue before his Lordship alone.

Mr Michael Bellotti, QC, Mr Geoffrey Shaw and Mr Judith Beale for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew Rankin, QC and Mr John Previtt for the defendants in the first action; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr Desmond Browne for the other defendants.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said the actions by the plaintiff against the defendants were for slander and libel. All the defendants pleaded justification.

On the order for directions, the plaintiff asked for trial by jury which was not objected to by the defendants. All the actions were consolidated.

On the afternoon of the eighth day of the trial, when the plaintiff was still in the witness box and being cross examined on behalf of the defendants in the first action, he was shown a document which was not admissible, and therefore no question as to its contents should have been addressed to the plaintiff in front of the jury.

Unfortunately the questioning continued. Not only was the document inadmissible but unfortunately its nature and its contents were being misrepresented. The cross-examination was an improper and prejudicial cross-examination.

The plaintiff's counsel submitted that the prejudice to a fair trial caused by the document could not be cured except by the discharge of the jury and suggested that the case should go on before his Lordship trying it as a judge alone.

The test was whether there was a risk, which was more than a remote risk, of unwarranted prejudice arising from the improper cross-examination. It might be that if a satisfactory disclaimer were put immediately before the jury and supported by a clear direction in the summing-up, the objection of the cross-examination might not, by itself, have justified the discharge of the jury; but there was another matter.

As the case progressed, his Lordship came more and more to wonder whether it was any longer suitable for trial by jury. The issues were constantly growing.

The law in relation to place and mode of trial was covered by Order 33, rules 4 and 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court 1965 and by the Supreme Court Act 1981. The application for the place and mode of trial in Order 33 rule 5, which was mirrored in section 69 was an application which was to be made before the trial.

That did not affect the power which was contained in Order 33, rule 4(1) to vary the order made on the summons for directions at or before the trial. "At trial" were wide words, quite capable of covering the moment when the case was called on to any moment when it became quite apparent that the case ought not to continue to be tried by a jury.

The case involved the examination of many documents and the number was growing all the time and the consideration of medical papers of a highly technical nature and complicated medical evidence. When one added to that the risk of prejudice, the jury ought to be discharged and his Lordship should continue to try the case alone.

Solicitors: Royds Barfield; Mr Rhory Robertson; Hempsons; Le Brasseur & Bury.

House loan not deductible for gains tax

Passant v Jackson (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Vinelott

[Judgment delivered November 20]

Money borrowed by a residuary legatee to enable a house that had belonged to his mother, the testatrix, to be retained and transferred to him, was not deductible in computing the capital gain accruing to that residuary legatee on the subsequent sale of the house.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr Douglas Passant from the special commissioners who upheld an assessment of the capital gains tax of £2,888 for 1968-9.

Mr Nigel Ley for Mr Passant; Mr Stephen Aitchison for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the net value of Mr Passant's mother's residuary estate after deduction of debts and funeral and testamentary expenses was substantially less than £6,000. Mr Passant, who wished to acquire a tenanted house that had belonged to her and which was valued at £6,000, requested the executor not to sell it but to transfer it to him in consideration of his making good the deficiency.

To enable him to do that, Mr Passant borrowed and paid over to the executor £2,500. Thereupon in August 1966 the house was vested in Mr Passant. In March 1969 he sold it to the tenant for £9,000.

Mr Passant claimed that in computing his resulting tax liability he was entitled to deduct the £2,500 from the proceeds of sale. He argued that he had acquired the equitable title to the house on his mother's death and that that acquisition had for tax purposes to be deemed to have been at market value - namely the estate duty valuation of £6,000 (section 24(1) of the Finance Act 1965).

That £2,500, he said, was expenditure wholly and exclusively incurred by him in "establishing, preserving or defending his title to, or to a right over, the asset" and accordingly was expenditure falling within paragraph 4(1)(b) of Schedule 6 to the 1965 Act and deductible.

But the fallacy in that argument was that when Mr Passant acquired as residuary legatee on his mother's death was not title to the house but an interest in the residuary estate after payment of the debts, legacies and other expenses. He did not acquire the right to have the house transferred to him until he had paid the balance of the liabilities that the executor had to pay.

Accordingly paragraph 4(1)(b) did not assist Mr Passant and there was nothing in his argument that he had inadvertently stumbled on a lacuna in the capital gains tax legislation that enabled him to avoid payment of tax.

Solicitors: Lomas; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Whether director liable

C. Evans & Sons Ltd v Spritbrand Ltd and Another

It was a question of fact to be decided on the circumstances of each case whether a company director could be held personally liable for the tortious act of a company servant or agent which the director had directed or procured without knowledge or recklessness as to whether the act would be tortious.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Croom-Johnson, Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Slade) held on November 15, dismissing an appeal by a company director against the decision that he was liable for the tortious act of a company servant or agent which the director had directed or procured without knowledge or recklessness as to whether the act would be tortious.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, delivering the reserved judgment of

the court said that when Mr Justice Nourse in *White Horse Distillers Ltd v Gregson Associates Ltd* [1984] RPC 611, purporting to summarise the effect of *Montgomery v Mansfield Manufacturing Co Ltd* [1978] 89 DLR 195, said that it was a condition precedent to the personal liability of a director for a tort committed by his company that "he must not only commit or direct the tortious act or conduct, but he must do so deliberately or recklessly and so as to make it his own, as distinct from the act or conduct of the company," he was expressing the principle in terms which were not sufficiently qualified.

If there had been no knowing, deliberate, wilful quality in his participation, the court might be more reluctant to hold the director personally liable.

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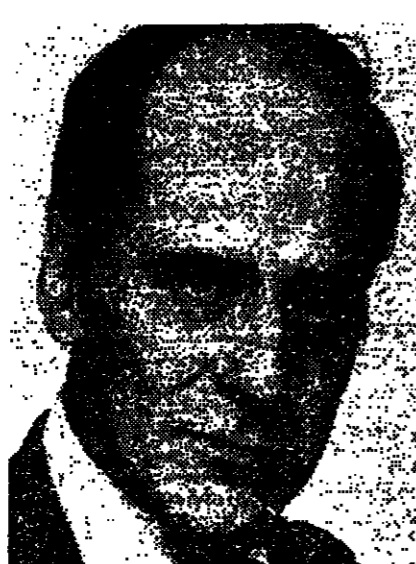
THE ARTS

The publishing industry, on the face of it, is in the midst of a commercial boom. All around lie signs of apparent success - enormously increased profits for 1983-84 from almost all the companies, new books published rising to pre-recession levels of almost 50,000 a year, booming exports thanks to a weak pound. But the price for these successes is now being faced - a winter of rare uncertainty.

For books are now faced with three huge problems: the increasing likelihood that they will have VAT imposed on them at the next Budget, steeply rising production costs and a suddenly, slightly mysterious and alarmingly continuous downturn in trade since the spring. Add to that list the fact that some major publishers are going through large-scale personnel changes and it becomes clear that these are disquieting times.

The VAT problem has been looming for some time. Indeed, it now seems that the tax would have been imposed at the last Budget but, for so far unknown reasons, it was withdrawn just two weeks before the Chancellor rose to speak. This suggests that industry was almost caught napping. It has reacted by forming a committee under Viscount Macmillan aimed at killing the idea this time round. But at the Tory conference in Brighton lobbyists found a disturbing scepticism from MPs towards the age-old "iniquitous tax on knowledge" argument. The feeling is now that the battle will be lost.

According to the working party's submission, as yet unpublished, the effects will be dire. The tax will raise £84m. from books after stripping out purchases where VAT can be



Increasing costs, falling sales and the overriding threat of Value-Added Tax have thrown an apparently booming publishing industry into disquiet: Bryan Appleyard reports

A time to read the omens

Michael Pountney of W. H. Smith finds hope in devoting more floor-space to books

recovered or where it is not applicable. As it applies throughout the production process and because of the unpleasant habit of "rounding-up" prices, the effect in the shops will be a price increase of between 19 and 23 per cent. That suggests as much as £2 on the price of the average £8.95 novel.

It is thought the effect could be a sales reduction of 15 per cent. The working party argues that books are a much more price-sensitive product than is usually assumed.

But even that problem is compounded by its timing. Production costs in 1984-85 are rising at the rate of 20 to 25 per cent. Paper is priced in sterling terms and real savings from new printing technology are still some years off. That suggests yet another £1 on the price of the £8.95 novel in the next 12 months. So the

next Booker winner may well be on offer at £11.95. Even Anita Brookner's slim volume, priced this year at £7.95, would have risen through the psychologically significant £10 barrier.

It is at this point in the argument that current financial results from publishers become a touch embarrassing. Penguin's interim figures showed profits up 50 per cent at £2.1m., Oxford's were up 58 per cent at £7.1m., and those of Collins, a much more diversified company, were more than doubled at £4.2m., and so on. Against that background cries of pain about VAT and rising costs are likely to fall on sceptical ears.

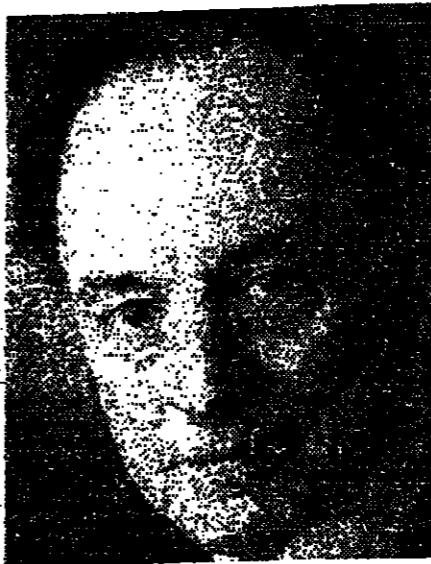
However, the figures covered a period in which sales had been pulling out of the recession, a period when costs in general had been contained. They do not tell the story



Philip Attenborough of Hodder: a "very flat" trading picture

of events since spring. Philip Attenborough, chairman of Hodder & Stoughton, describes the trading picture since then as "very flat". Others, in private, have gone further. Specifically the mass market paperback publishers are talking of their worst ever summer.

Ian Chapman of Collins would a nationwide chain eventually prove viable?



There are certain superficial reasons: the miners' strike and its attendant sense of economic gloom plus the hot weather which traditionally depresses book sales. But nobody is quite convinced that together they represent a full explanation. There is a mysterious element in this dip in sales which makes it all the more alarming. Furthermore, it has continued into the past two months, suggesting there may be no immediate recovery.

Oddly enough W. H. Smith, the biggest bookseller of them all, did not feel the chill until the late autumn. Michael Pountney, Smith's book merchandise controller, thinks the explanation may lie with the company's decision last year to devote more floor-space to books. Smith seems to have protected itself

against the poor summer simply by taking a larger market share.

That, of course, may not please the smaller traders, who traditionally represent the heart of the quality book trade with their large stocks supported by relatively small sales. Yet for them the fact that hardback and up-market sales in general have not suffered as badly as mass market paperbacks represents some kind of consolation. They certainly need it to soothe the burnt fingers suffered as a result of dozens of rash plunges into the computer software market. Software boomed but the market was so complex and volatile that the small booksellers simply could not cope.

In the longer term, however, there are positive signs at the retailing end. Collins has now decided to expand the Hatchards chain in the belief that there is a demand for

more high-quality stockholding bookshops. The expansion is very slow but Ian Chapman, the chairman, makes it clear that it is aimed at discovering whether a nationwide chain would eventually prove viable. The point seems to be - and this is endorsed by Pountney - that more bookshops means more books sold. It does not seem to mean that the smaller simply have to close.

If that is really the case then the answer to all the industry's problems may lie with improved distribution and marketing, though in the short term that is little consolation. The question for now is what the looming problems will do to the industry and its present structure. The appearance of aggressive, highly efficient companies such as BTR as the ultimate owner of the Secker-Heinemann group has already sent ripples through the industry with the resignation of Tom Rosenthal. Furthermore, ominous ripples were made by the private suggestion that BTR could find nobody in-house to do the job permanently.

If trading and taxation problems become too pressing then it is the BTRs of this world which will hold the key to the future rather than the familiar family-owned companies which have traditionally dominated publishing in this country. The danger is that they, in the end, will be the real casualties of the current squeeze. But, like the small bookshops whose demise had long been forecast, they have shown remarkable resilience. They should continue to do so provided they can stop muttering about "a wonderful Frankfurt" and how much they hated the Booker shortlist and get on with what they do best - finding good books.

Dance

Exhilarating new talents

Festival Ballet
Royal, Nottingham

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

The extent of Peter Schaufuss's impact on Festival Ballet became fully apparent for the first time at Nottingham this past weekend with the premiere of a new production, the debut of an amazing young dancer and the appearance at the head of an obviously heartened company, of some of the new recruits.

The new production is *Night Creature*, the first showing in Britain of one of the works Alvin Ailey created as part of a Duke Ellington festival in 1976 with his American Dance Company. The music is jazz for a symphony orchestra, and the choreography correspondingly combines ballet steps with bumps and grinds. It makes a heady mixture and the dancers respond with exhilarating zest. Except for Raffaele Paganini as the swaggering macho intruder in the middle section, two entirely different casts appeared on Friday and Saturday afternoon, led respectively by Deborah Janette Mulligan with Matz Skoog and slinky

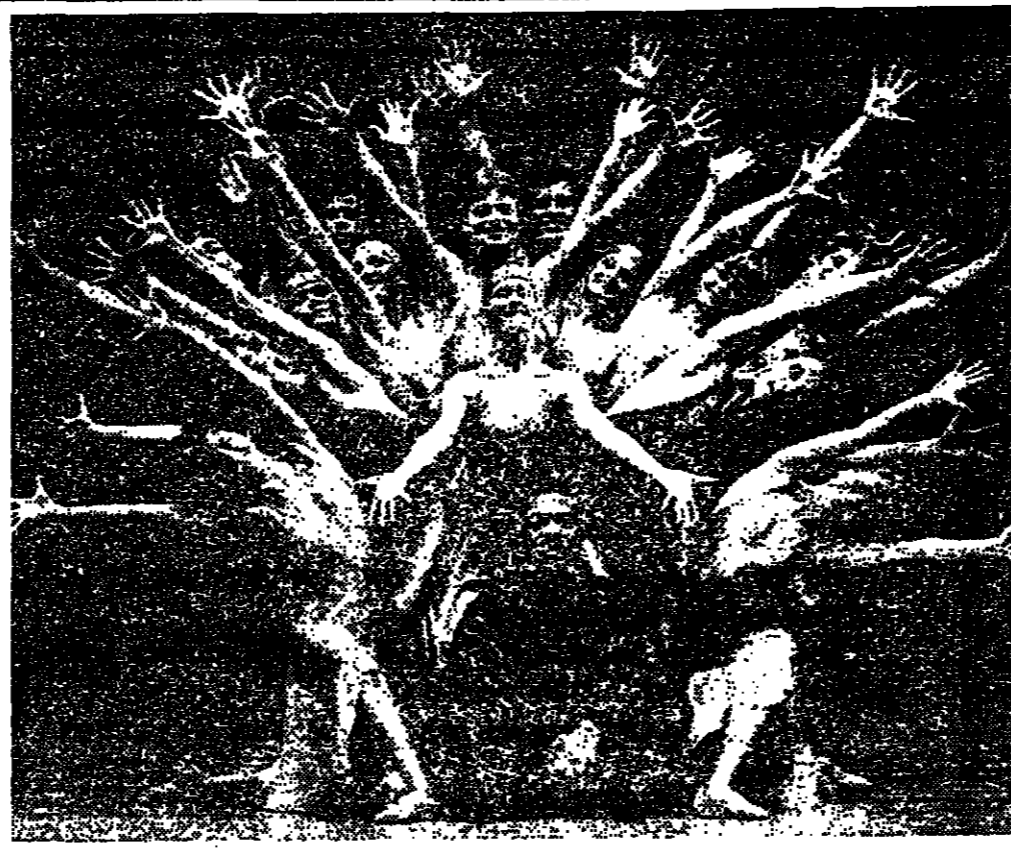
Caroline Humpston with Kevin Richmond. Both teams were equally strong and lively, revealing new talents in quite a few of the young dancers. I would guess this genial work will prove as popular in Festival Ballet's repertory as did *Symphony for Fun* in the company's early days (the two have much in common).

Paganini is one of the newcomers, he comes from Rome and has a tough, virile manner well displayed in the virtuoso solos of *Etudes*. The former Bolshoi soloist Vladimir Dorevianko has also joined and his soft, smooth pianity was seen both in *Etudes* and (partnering Mary McKendry in bright, strong form) the *Don Quixote pas de deux*. Both men should be valuable and popular. But the sensation of the weekend was the debut of Katherine Healy, an American who won a gold medal in the Varna ballet competition last year.

She is still under 16 but already a completely professional dancer of exceptional gifts, even though she commutes between performances and high school in Brooklyn. So now we can see for ourselves what the "baby ballerinas" of the Thirties were like. There is nothing of the precocious theatre child in

Healy; her manner is completely natural, her smile spontaneous and winning. Remarkably light jumps, devastatingly brilliant turns (she smoothly introduces double and triple fouettés like child's play) and rock-steady balances are features of a really strong all-round technique. Even more important is her sense of style and detail: the way she nestles against her partner's shoulder in the romantic duet of *Etudes*, for instance, or the upthrown arm at the beginning of *Don Quixote* which, perfect in placing, timing and line, lets you know at once that she is going to be outstandingly good. Schaufuss partnered her in this latter and was obviously dancing flat out, not to be outdone.

Graham Bond conducted the varied programme sympathetically (it also included Elgar's *The Sanguine Fan*). And the company as a whole deserves special mention for the crispness and polish they all showed in *Etudes*. This programme is repeated at Bristol next week. At Covent Garden, the Royal Ballet is slightly varying its mixed bills, giving the customer some choice in what combination of ballets to see (and about time too). *Raymonda* has entered the list of available choices, but except for Deirdre



Alvin Ailey and cast in *Night Creature*

Eyden at one performance, and Antoinette Sibley and Karen Paisley at another, the dancing has been nothing to write home about.

However, Jonathan Cope's accession to the title part of *Young Apollo* on Saturday night revealed that ballet's consider-

able merits more vividly; he has the stamina to sustain the exhausting demands right through, the technique to make its details clear, the physique and presence to give it an air of radiant authority. Fiona Chadwick as Mnemosyne does not quite match Bryony Brind's

indiosyncratic line but her quiet composure and musical sensitivity show well. And Ashley Lawrence is now obtaining fine playing from the orchestra of the splendid score by Britten and Gordon Crosse.

John Percival

Philharmonia/
Sinopoli
Festival Hall

Even after nearly half a century, Berg's Violin Concerto is not as regular a repertory piece as one might imagine from its odd reputation as one of the most lush and romantic of Second Viennese School pieces. It was startling that Gidon Kremer's performance with the Philharmonia on Friday was its second London hearing within a week as Paul Griffiths reported here. Pinchas Zukerman has just played the work with the LSO and Boulez at the Barbican.

I did not hear that, and so cannot compare the two, but Kremer's account seemed to me almost ideal: the "memory of an angel" tag has so often produced performances which tried to pile sweetness and languor on to the solo violin part that it was a shock to have Kremer's playing reveal what is actually at the heart of this concerto - tough, searing passion.

Kremer never rests as he plays; both physically and

Concerts

musically he keeps things moving, and the Mahlerian overtones of the Scherzo were marked with almost grotesque exaggeration, with the extraordinarily orchestrated trills standing out in sharp relief. But Kremer found too a remarkable peace in the jangled variations of the last movement, and he kept the serene spirit of the Bach chorale that animates it right through the final, piercingly high solo note under which the music sinks to uneasy rest.

The orchestra sounded less than wholly at ease in the accompaniment, so difficult to balance clearly, but they responded with vigour to a highly-characterized and often lively Schubert Ninth after the interval. The tempi were generally well chosen and solidly sustained (though that for the Andante tended to plod), and the articulation was sharp enough to make the hard-edged climax of that innocent slow movement a most impressive moment, growing from solos which were for once really pianissimo.

Nicholas Kenyon

ECO/Tilson Thomas
Barbican

Doubtless the coming Handel tercentenary will yield many extraordinary shades of interpretation. Few, however, will dare to evoke as splendidly as Renata Scotta the grandiloquent mannerisms of the great singers of the "78" era, when a Handel aria, delivered with awesome gravity, was everybody's number one choice for funerals.

Her account of "Lascia ch'io pianga" from *Rinaldo* sped like a three-legged tortoise, making the simple repeated act of moving over the quaver rest to the following upbeat a manoeuvre that seemed to require paranormal communication between Michael Tilson Thomas and the English Chamber Orchestra. Both here and in *Piangerò la sorte mia* from *Giulio Cesare* there were also niggling inaccuracies of intonation, and miscalculated leaps into a higher register remedied too often by an anachronistic portamento.

Yet Miss Scotta's innate sense of theatre, albeit nurtured on Puccini, could even in these incongruous circumstances create a genuinely moving

effect, such as from the precisely calculated sotto voce she applied to the *Rinaldo* aria's final phrases. Her interpretation of "Non più fiori" from Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* was intelligently conceived and affecting, although the two-octave range of this tragic tour de force revealed that her voice, though retaining a powerful lustre in the middle register, is beginning to spread at the top and lose its searing strength at the bottom.

Tilson Thomas's accompaniment here, sensitive to the shape of his soloist's phrasing, and eliciting some deft and mellifluous bass-line playing from Thea King, was far more alert than his earlier handling of Mozart's "Paris" Symphony had led one to expect. This was given a complacent run-through, with dynamic markings only vaguely observed.

Perhaps the conductor initially misjudged the Barbican's quirky capacity to swallow certain orchestral sonorities, for in Beethoven's Symphony No 8 a far crisper articulation was achieved, even in a scurrying finale. Re-seating the violins left and right of the conductor also emphasized the glancing interplay of the Allegretto most effectively.

Richard Morrison

Nash Ensemble
Wigmore Hall

With typical boldness, the Nash Ensemble are beginning each concert in their current Italian series with a Berio *Sequenza* or two, inducing audiences with a free glass of sherry beforehand. Not that there was any need to steady the nerve for the pair offered on Saturday. No juxtaposition could have served better to illustrate the variety of Berio's language.

In *Sequenza IV*, the one for piano, the music is almost ascetic; notes are sustained by means of the middle pedal while a toccata is woven around them. The effect is something like that of a Bach chorale prelude.

If Ian Brown here was able to prove himself a thoroughly adept and dextrous musician, in *Sequenza V*, for trombone, David Purser's brief role was more that of clown, bemused by the stage, the instrument and the skilfully contrived noises he makes. Dressed immaculately in ill-fitting tails, Purser entered into the spirit of this absurd world with a subtly sad kind of humour. Yet one could not help feeling that this piece, composed in 1967, is strictly of its own age.

The rest of the concert offered some equally exotic things.

Robert Tear sang Respighi's song cycle *Deita silvana*, a setting of poems by Antonio Rubino decorated by an opulent yet wholly apposite piano accompaniment. Tear's delivery, as earlier in Rossini's spectacular *Les Soirées musicales*, was always sensitive but confident, though one wished for fewer portamenti and his extravagant physical gestures cannot really be necessary.

There was also the *Sonata a cinque* for flute, harp and string trio by Gian Francesco Malipiero, a prolific composer remembered today more for his pioneering edition of Monteverdi than anything else. This was a pleasantly tuneful, impulsive kind of piece, brimming with ideas in its modest way.

This was a marvellous performance too, as was that of Mendelssohn's B minor Piano Quartet, Op. 3, powered from within by Ian Brown at the piano.

Stephen Pettitt

Television

Shifty spectacular

Shakespeare now marches out under the challenging BBC2 banner "Saturday Alternative", which will launch him and various operas into that evening's cultural wastes this winter. The appearance of the late and rightly admired Leonard Rossiter in David Giles's *The Life and Death of King John* may have tempted many to take up the first gunnle and turn a cold shoulder to such rival competitors for the lacklustre eye as *Dynasty* and *Wogan*.

Mr Rossiter made a good job

of this shifty, untrusting, murderous King. His fluttering flights into bravado and retreats into a more natural cowardice - characteristics which, in a comic vein, can be seen in *Rising Damp*, still running on ITV - were entirely appropriate. It is not a play that can always divert one by the power of its language nor the compulsion of its action from an occasional inspection of the scenery, and the insubstantial nature and limited mood of the sets here tended to hold the eye

with a consequent loss to the drama.

Claire Bloom, as Constance, and certainly George Costigan, as the Bastard Faulconbridge, were more than competitive, however, and John Thaw, as Hubert, was powerful enough to escape immediate recognition

as that man who is always chasing criminals.

Max Wall is a man who seems to be constantly rediscovered. It must be satisfying for a man who sustained so much obloquy in the times of his marital troubles to be lionized now but, at 76, he

displays only humour. LWT's *South Bank Show* last night explored his affinity with Samuel Beckett, whom he has met only twice but who was sufficiently impressed to permit LWT to produce excerpts of Mr Wall in *Krapp's Last Tape* and *Waiting for Godot*.

These were well done by the producer-director Paul Foxall, and Wall was excellent here and in his readings from Beckett's novel *Malone Dies*. Not being an academic man, he said, he did not want to read too much

into Beckett; but their affection for classic comedians such as Chaplin, Keaton and Laurel and Hardy, and their ideas of comedy and sadness, with which Wall professed a close acquaintance, were much the same.

"Hello Sam", he said to Beckett when they met. They had not spoken about the plays, but had had lots of laughs. One could believe it.

Dennis Hackett



The Spastics Society does everything in its power to help equip, educate and train spastic people for a better future.

Using a mixture of help and persuasion, we also try to ensure that more attention is paid to the huge problem of access to public buildings and services.

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Why is Nicholas Ridley treating our public transport system like so many toys?

As Secretary of State for Transport, Nicholas Ridley is responsible for buses and trains, coaches and underground railways. It must seem like a childhood dream come true.

In fact, what Mr Ridley sees as so many toys, the rest of us can see as a vital national asset, built up over generations. Why destroy it?

For that is what the Transport Secretary is planning. The words are 'deregulation' and 'privatisation' and 'cutting public expenditure'. The reality will be reduced services, higher fares, lower standards.

Let's be honest. What it all comes down to is the argument about subsidy. In fact, we already subsidise public transport less than most other European countries or even most North American cities. The subsidy factor in Liverpool is 44%, in London 35%, in Leeds/Bradford 35%, in Amsterdam 79% and (would you believe?) in Denver 70%.

More than thirty of the major cities in Europe, North America and Australasia provide more than 50% subsidy to their public transport system. Are they all wrong?

A successful, reasonably-subsidised public transport system is good for efficiency, good for the economy. It gets people to work on time. It reduces road congestion and road accidents (in London, the 1983

fares reduction increased passenger traffic by 15% and led to an annual drop of 3,000 road accidents). It ensures freer movement of goods, services and people. It allows people without daily access to a car the chance to go shopping, visit friends and family, enjoy leisure facilities.

Cut back public transport in a country where nearly 40% of households have no car at all, and you restrict the mobility of a large part of the population.

Is that good for business?

What will happen is crystal-clear, because it has happened before. Increase fares and motorists will revert to their cars and non-motorists will stay at

home. Use of public transport will fall off. 'Unprofitable' routes will be cut. Passenger traffic will slump still further. A familiar spiral of decay.

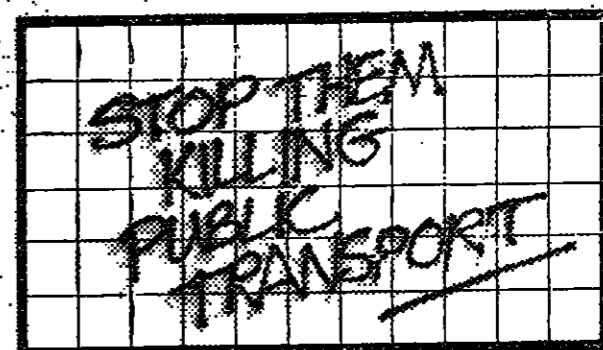
You have already seen how reductions in bus and train services have crippled rural communities. And the recent deregulation trial in Hereford amounted to chaos: routes and timetables abandoned, villages cut off, public safety standards ignored.

Not that Mr Ridley is oblivious to all this. In a speech to the Bus and Coach Council, he said "People do want buses, but their demands are changing, and if they do not get what they want they won't be stoical, they'll take the car or walk or not bother to make the trip."

Will it be good for your business when people don't bother to make the trip. We ask you to reflect on that statement.

Where does your MP stand on the issue? What is the attitude of your local authority? What precise plans does the Government have?

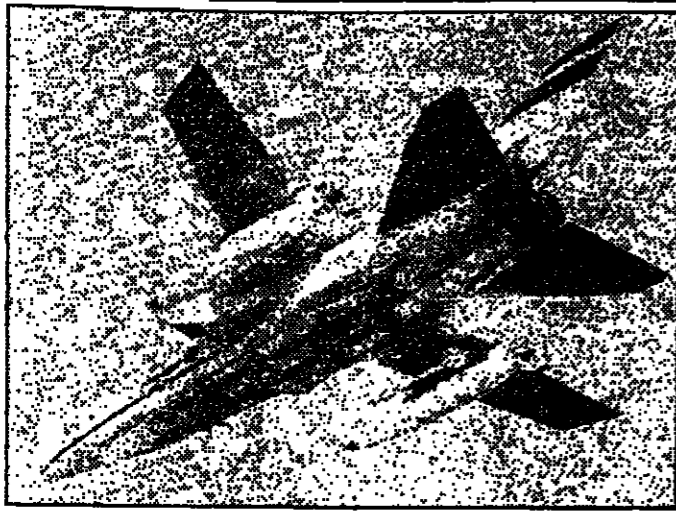
If you don't find out, and unless we manage to throw more public light on the Government's plans, Mr Ridley will be able to carry on playing trains and buses. And you, your business and the whole community will suffer.



SPECTRUM

FINDINGS

Ronald Faux takes a high-speed test flight in the RAF's new Tornado strike attack aircraft, and discovers how its advanced technology and heavy armament make it a formidable weapon that can fly 'blind', disable enemy radar and still make bombing raids of pin-point accuracy



The Tornado fully armed for battle

My blind spin in a Tornado

Low over the startled antlers of moose and caribou in the Canadian arctic, RAF aircrews operate the Tornado strike-attack aircraft to its full menacing potential at speeds of 500 knots or more in nil visibility and within a whisker of the ground.

The training sorties from Goose Bay airbase have taken the aircraft to its limits as a fast, low-level platform for accurately delivering bombs and missiles.

As a key element in British defence the Tornado will be used well into the next century, but in the UK training has generally been confined to clear visibility and well above the true hedge-vaulting ability of the aircraft. The Ministry of Defence says it prefers to export its noise to the tundra rather than provoking even louder reaction by unleashing the Tornado in Britain at roof-top level on dark and cloudy nights.

The aircraft, which has been in service with the RAF for just over a year, has also just won the prestigious Strategic Air Command bombing competition in the USA with a convincingly more impressive performance than its American and Australian rivals. The F2 air defence version of the Tornado, designed to protect the "back door" to the British Isles against attack, has recently been handed over to the RAF.

Aircrew, recently back from Goose Bay and now serving with 27 Squadron at RAF Marham in Norfolk, admitted the first few night sorties in nil visibility were nerve wracking. "There is a difficult psychological threshold to cross before you can comfortably hand over to the automatic systems on the aircraft. You can see absolutely nothing through the canopy yet you know that the ground is screaming past a fraction of a second away. You soon develop

absolute faith in the kit", one pilot told me.

The "kit" demonstrated to me on a flight from Marham is a union of black boxes; the terrain-following radar so sensitive it will lift the aircraft clear of a flock of birds, and an automatic flight director that will steer the aircraft along a pre-determined track. With all systems selected, the pilot and navigator are there merely to monitor this £13m automatic weapon and to dispense electronic counter measures to confuse enemy defences or send a destructive spanner down any hostile radar beam.

As the aircraft flies itself, the crew has more time to squeeze the best out of its potent weapons. This is far in advance of existing RAF aircraft, such as the Buccaneer, which required a map, stop watch and calculator to fly at low level, or even the Jaguar which has a different low level role and can operate only in clear visibility.

Tornado may be an aircraft, the product of British, German and Italian expertise but for a civilian it is a long stride from the Heathrow shuttle. First came the briefings: instruction on the finer points of oxygen deficiency and explosive decomposition, and how to breathe when lungs are being blasted with oxygen, then a dummy run on the rocket-powered ejector seat.

In the unlikely event of it failing, I was told, there was no point in trying to tumble out the traditional way. The Tornado's tail was too big to miss. "Better die cleanly in the ensuing crash", was the chilling advice.

More briefings followed about the complex tangle of tubes and wires that sprout from the average jet airman. There were restraints to prevent arms and legs from flailing should he "bang out" and an umbilical that feeds compressed air into the "g"



Ronald Faux kitted out for his high-speed test flight

pants, tightening them according to the tightness of the turn and preventing blood from being dumped into the legs by centrifugal force and causing a blackout.

On the day of the flight there are briefings on the mission, the course and formation to be followed, weapons to be used and the conditions likely to be met. Then we dress with the care of latterday crusading knights. The aircraft stands in its steel and concrete citadel and squadron leader Mal Prissick supervises the start of the engines from the pilot's seat. They scream into life as I am strapped into the navigator's seat - the proper occupant is having a day off in Paris.

Our course has been fed by the mission-planning computer into a tape cassette which is slotted into the aircraft's main computer. The heavily reinforced doors open and we taxi

out and follow the lead Tornado which has emerged from its own citadel. At the runway threshold the precise latitude and longitude are entered into the computer. The aircraft now knows where it is and can relate every turn and heading to that one point on the earth's surface. A moving map directly in front of me begins its exact monitoring of our flight.

Two Tornados roll down the runway close together, mirror images lifting smoothly at the same moment, tucking wing tip to wing tip in a long left turn over the Norfolk countryside. Speed gathers rapidly and wings lock back in near delta shape as we streak across the coast. The 10 miles to the first target pass in little more than a minute.

The horizon whips into a vertical line and my "g" pants grip my legs and loins. "Just getting us into the right ball park", says squadron leader Mal. With this aircraft's weapon

system, hitting the target is a foregone conclusion. The refinement is for the bomb to land at the predicted second.

We are whipping across the mouth of the Humber and up the Yorkshire coast to the next target, a raft close to the shore. Two more bombs strike precisely, then there are fields and roof tops, church towers and trees flashing beneath the wings. A line of washing is there one instant and lost in our thundering wake the next. The twin augmented turbo-fan engines are notoriously noisy but beneath the cockpit dome there is nothing louder than the sound of a whistling kettle.

The two aircraft have moved to battle formation, in line and roughly half a mile apart. Our partner has become an agile dot riding the contours of the countryside like a speedboat riding long waves. Across the Vale of York we hop to 3,000 feet to avoid a zone of military

flying below; we must not disturb the military. The climb does not take long, the Tornado reached 30,000ft in two minutes. As the Pennines loom we drop back to 250ft and dodge beneath a rank of dark clouds that spatter the canopy with rain.

The valleys of the Lake District are a honey-pot for Tornados and their kin. West-water rips past and the hills close in high above us. The lead aircraft, now in close formation, is even lower than we are and Mal admires his partner's "good line" and brings our nose up in a violent climb over Styhead Pass. The last time I walked up here took two hours. Today it takes three seconds.

Great Gable stands on its side and the "g" pants billow again. My body turns to lead and thrusts deep into the seat in a severe turn. A black trail from the other Tornado shows that it, too, is working hard. The floor of Langrathdale is surely no more than 100 feet below. I can see individual boulders hurled past at 450 miles an hour. Minutes later we are in the Eden valley and below the lip of the Pennines like a burglar keeping to the shadows. On the Spadadam electronic warfare range a group of Soviet aircraft with red stars on their wingtips is thoroughly "zapped". Ground defences fire mock surface-to-air missiles at us - they are the shape of motorway cones and are known as Smokey Sams.

Across Northumberland Mal Prissick selects the terrain-following radar and holds up his hands to prove the Tornado is flying itself. Magically it leaps hillocks and threads its way down a shallow valley. The pilot can override the electronics but at this height and speed oblivion is only one split second away. *Quam Celerrime ad Astra* (as swiftly as Possible to the Stars) is 27 Squadron's motto which seems oddly in the wrong direction for a Tornado.

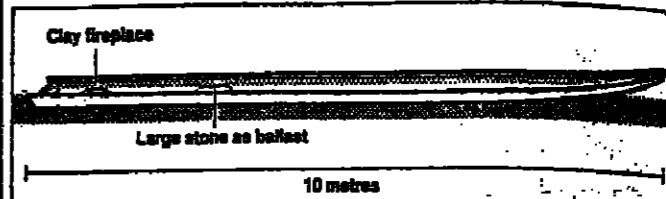
In war trim the Tornado bristles with weapons - 1,000lb bombs, sidewinder air-to-air missiles and bombs that blast holes in runways

Within two hours of setting out we are back at Marham and in the citadel with its walls covered with profile pictures of Soviet military aircraft and warships. There is a de-briefing as to how we got on and a wind-down over tea. The pilots like the Tornado. Mal Prissick considers it an aircraft without vices: technologically streets ahead of anything the Russians possessed.

It is a formidable weapon for keeping the peace or for striking (the military call it interdicting) into hostile territory, delivering a severely crippling blow and escaping at high speed. In war trim the Tornado bristles with weapons: 1,000lb bombs, cluster bombs, sidewinder air-to-air missiles and bombs that blast holes in runways while scattering land mines to prevent anyone approaching to fill them up again.

The Tornado F2 is to enter squadron service in 1986 and will have the ability to "loiter" on extended patrols, identifying intruders 100 miles away and intercepting them at low level at speeds that would cause any other aircraft to fall apart. As one defence specialist has put it, the Nimrod aircraft, with its early warning radar, will be the anvil of British air defence. The Tornado will be the hammer.

A series reporting on research: MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY



The ancient eel-catcher

Danish archaeologists have found the earliest known boat in Europe, some 6,000 years old. The boat, pictured above, was discovered at Tybrind Vig, a small bay on the coast of the Fyn island about 25 miles west of Odense, which was gradually submerged by the post-Ice Age staking of southern Denmark.

A settlement existed at the mouth of the bay, belonging to the Mesolithic Ertebølle culture, and with an economy based on fishing. The boat dates to about 4000BC or 3310 "BC".

(radiocarbon years). It seems to have been used for the specialized task of eel-fishing, because there is a hearth in its stern for a fire to attract the eels at night. The boat is nearly 30ft long, and was shaped with a stone axe or adze from a lime trunk. It was 2ft wide, and the wood had been cut so effectively that it was only between 1cm and 3cm thick. The offshore nature of the eeling is shown by the boat's depth of only about 9in. It had a squared-off stern closed by a board.

Dugouts and dates

Other early boats are known from Denmark, too: a systematic list of radiocarbon dates for maritime sites in the latest *Journal of Nautical Archaeology* shows that logboats from Fraestelungen in West Zealand, also of lime wood, date to about 5,000 years ago, while some are three centuries or so later. One boat had a willow stake used for mooring it, and this has also yielded a date earlier than 3,000 BC.

British boats are, by comparison, late: apart from an anomalous date of 11,000BC from hazel wood found near an ancient boat at Ferryby in Yorkshire, nine other radiocarbon dates for the three Ferryby plank boats place them firmly in the Bronze Age, with the earliest dates being between 1500 and 1600 BC.

This makes the boats about the same date as Stonehenge in its final phase.

Larger ships certainly existed here in Saxon times, though the famous ship-burial at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk, has had two dates run, one of them on beeswax from a lamp, which gave readings of AD523 and AD694.

One date in the new synoptic list suggests that the claims for the Tybrind Vig boat may be challenged by Dutch archaeologists - a logboat from The Netherlands has yielded a date of more than 8,000 years ago.

The silk route

One of the longest journeys, most of it by sea, made by any archaeological specimen found in Britain has been documented at the textile laboratory of Manchester University's Institute of Science and Technology. A fragment of plain weave cultivated silk found in a late Roman grave near Colchester has been identified as a direct import from China.

Since cultivated silk was not made outside China before the sixth century AD, it is certain that this material originated in China, or further east in the Middle Kingdom itself. Dr John Wild of Manchester University said: "Western weavers were used to having to spin wool and

flax, and when they obtained silk yarn regularly spun it before weaving. So it seemed likely that the Colchester silk, lacking spin, was woven in the East. If that is correct, then it is the earliest attested Chinese silk fabric in western Europe."

The route taken by the fabric would probably have been, Dr Wild thinks, from Xinjiang across the Pamir and down the Indus river to the Arabian Sea, and thence to Alexandria in Egypt, across The Mediterranean to Marseilles, up the Rhône and down the Rhine, and finally across the North Sea to the Essex coast or London (see map below).

Vintage wines

Wine amphorae among the most common finds in underwater archaeology, when wrecks of classical date are being excavated; but amphorae found on land can also be used to reconstruct patterns of waterborne trade. The province of Catalonia, in south-east Spain, was a noted wine-producing area under the Romans, and between the first century BC and the first century AD Catalan wine was exported north throughout France, with one jar at least reaching Essex.

A Catalan scholar, Ricardo Pascual Guasch, has identified the local amphora designs made at about 30 kilns in the region for the export trade; nearly all are marked with stamped inscriptions on the lip or base, and the kilns were concentrated around Barcelona.

The wines in them were called *Lietaniense* and *Laurenense* by Pliny the Elder, who classified Hispanic wines in his *Natural History* in about AD 77, and Martial refers to the low quality of the former. Three amphorae of *Laurenense* have been found in the great rubbish heap at Castro Praetorius in Rome.

The archaeological finds of Catalan amphorae include a scatter along the coast of Spain, France and north Italy, as well as the Balearics and Corsica, all from underwater sites.

Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent



Football? It's all Greek to me

moreover... Miles Kingdon

fighting! They were always at it. Knocking each other's places down, gangling together, having another barney - stretch, it's like Homo Millwallicus had hardly evolved. Greece is the finest example of a football culture I've ever seen."

But surely football isn't mentioned anywhere in Greek history?

"You don't actually have to have a football to have a football culture. Blimey, most of the football followers in this country never go to a match and, even if they do, it's the other supporters they've gone to deal with. No, look, what was

the most significant development in Greek history?"

The city state? "Right in one, sunshine! This was the first time that people had sorted out their rivalries on a proper town-club basis. And when they had their cities sorted out, what did they call their alliances?"

Well, the Attic League and the Spartan League...

"There you are, Leagues! They'd sorted it all out into leagues, fixtures, home and away, seasons, everything. Look at the Trojan War as the first World Cup and you're home and dry. And all those buildings..."

The temples, and so on?

"You can call them temples if you like. Stone goalposts they look like to me. Listen, I was in the place only a fortnight, but I've never seen a clearer example of places being knocked to bits by a horde of infuriated fans."

Gradually fall down over the years? Do me a favour. I've seen a football ground being done over, which none of your flaming intellectuals has, and I've seen a Greek so-called temple, and believe me...

But surely you can't ignore centuries of Greek scholarship?

"I'm not saying that. I'm not saying that. I'm saying you have to see it from a different angle. All those blokes writing screeds of philosophical rubbish they

existed, sure, but football always attracts your airy-fairy thinker - You have only to look at the Sunday papers or read Hans Keller on West Ham. It's one of the things that's killing football today. And do you know what the other is?"

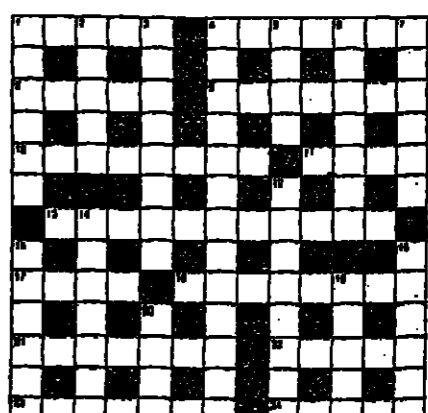
Defensive play? "Nah. Too many cups, that's what. Milk Cups and Tea Cups and UEFA Cups and Cup-Lossers Cups... And, tell me, what do you see most of in all those Greek museums?"

Well, vases and trophies, and large drinking cups...

"That's it! Cups and trophies! It killed the game in Greece, same as what it's killing it here. Blimey, it's thirsty work trying to knock the truth into your head. I'm ready for another beaker of the foaming Hippocras, and it's your shout."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 505)

- ACROSS
1 Shy (5)
4 Gogtha (7)
8 Flight organs (5)
9 Relieved (7)
10 Committee president (8)
11 Open (4)
12 Off fish (11)
17 Room (4)
18 Keeper (6)
21 Unsurpassed (3,4)
22 Attack (5)
23 Bumper cars (7)
24 Shabby (5)
DOWN
1 Smack sharply (6)
2 Obsession (5)
3 Divert (6)
4 Inspired (13)
5 Projection (4)
6 Sea anemone (7)
7 Milfoil (6)
12 Prison escape (5,3)
14 Disabled person (7)
15 Task (6)
16 Nimble (6)
19 Overturn (5)
20 Trickery (4)



Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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MONDAY PAGE

Till marriage do us part



In the first of a series
on matrimony
and the family in
Britain today

**Jeannette Kupfermann looks at
how changes in society and the
law have affected divorce**

There is hardly a family in Britain which has not been affected by divorce. With each one in three chance of ending in divorce, yet marriage is as popular as ever.

Indeed, with the growth of separations since the 1969 Divorce Act, it appears that people have much higher aspirations in marriage. The fears of the critics of the 1969 Act who forecast the collapse of both marriage and the family have been unfounded. The family is still going strong with the rise in remarriage creating the reconstituted or step-family.

Recent changes in the law which now allows divorce after one year of marriage and abolish the so-called "meal ticket for life for the abandoned wife," raise the question of whether or not divorce legislation actually contributes to marriage breakdown.

Some couples do choose what seems the easy option of simple divorce rather than attempt to solve the problems that are causing tensions in their marriage. Others opt for divorce as the most sensible answer to a

bored. One wife, now in her mid-40s, and in the process of getting a divorce after 22 years of marriage explained: "The children had all left home and one day I just looked at my husband and realised that I had precisely nothing left in common with him anymore."

"Without ever knowing it, because we had focussed so much energy on the children, not ourselves, we'd drifted apart. I now have completely different interests to him and feel there's just no point in staying together with a man who can't be a companion."

We are also quick to link rising divorce with sexual permissiveness, and it seems to be part of the "divorce myth" that adultery is a rite and a prime cause of divorce. In fact, says Dr Annette Lawson, who is currently working on a study of adultery, it is "less high than our interest warrants".

She says: "Popular surveys like *Life* and *Kinsey* put the figures as high as 40 per cent for women and 60 per cent for men. Other surveys have put it as low as 5 per cent. Quite honestly as long as we don't have any thorough survey there's no way of knowing, but from the answers I have been receiving it would seem to be happening in about 30 per cent of marriages."

Sexual fidelity is more likely in the second marriage, due to increased experience, greater sexual knowledge, and the desire not to risk jeopardising the second chance.

There is no doubt, too, that the declining influence of religion has affected us all considerably. During the 19th century the Church could strongly denounce divorce, insisting that the phrase, "till death do us part" be taken seriously.

Even in the 20th century, many believers have found it difficult to come to terms with divorce. "Divorce just wasn't an option when I married," said one 62-year-old wife, married 31 years who is also a regular churchgoer.

"You went into marriage thinking of it as sacred and for keeps and that if there were any problems, you'd just have to sort them out. There was nobody in my family who had divorced and I suppose I found the whole idea very distressing and very much against the grain."

Today her 27-year-old daughter has recently divorced, and her attitudes illustrate the generation gap. "It's not that I went into marriage with the idea of divorce as an easy way out. But when it came to the problems, I realised my religion no longer demanded staying in an impossible situation that was going to lead to misery all round."

"I know I probably produced disappointed friends



and family, but lives have changed and we're not part of that kind of rigid society anymore. I no longer feel that marriage is sacred, but I do still have hopes that it can be for keeps."

If family behaviour is no longer closely supervised by the Church, neither is it by the community. It has, for the most part, become private and personal. A person contemplating divorce today will rarely ask "Is this moral?" but rather "Is this going to make my life happier?"

When the point for a divorce actually arrives, women file 66 per cent of all petitions, which does not necessarily mean that more women are filing for divorce as men often do the "gallant" thing and "allow" their wives to file. Interestingly women are more likely to choose "unreasonable behaviour" as grounds while men choose "adultery".

In the past it has been men who have left the family home, but now more women seem prepared to up and leave a marriage, even with young dependent children.

Pat, a young divorcee who recently left a husband and two young children, explained: "Our mothers might have been willing to put up with a helluva lot. But we're not. I don't think women are as anxious to please anymore. If something doesn't work, we know we've got other options." She saw leaving the children behind with her ex-husband as a temporary arrangement.

In a 1979 study of 520 divorcees, 4 per cent of wives compared to 23 per cent of husbands had recognised their wedding as a marital problem by the first anniversary. By the third anniversary 69 per cent of wives compared to 46 per cent of husbands reached this conclusion. This supports the notion that marriage tends to satisfy far more the physical and

emotional needs of men than of women, who have to make the greater adjustment of the two.

The change in woman's role and perception has been held by many to be a prime cause of rising divorce rates. The rather rosy picture of the "symmetrical family" with men and women increasingly sharing conjugal roles and decision-making does

Divorce is higher among the lower classes and in mixed marriages

not tally with the women sociologists who argue that the benefits men and women draw from marriage are radically different.

It may be true that increased sharing is taking place but as long as there's inequality in the market-place, there's going to be inequality at home.

The voices in the Eighties have mellowed. While it is uncontested that women earning money are going to alter the power balance in a marriage, women today are trying rather than find solutions within the family.

There are clear danger areas and it has always been held that those at greatest risk are teenage marriages.

For example, nine per cent of teenage brides who married in 1973 were divorced by their fifth wedding anniversary, compared to five per cent and three per cent respectively, of those women who married in their early and late twenties.

The fact of having an early child might be just as important as the teenage marriage, for analysis shows that 25 per cent of teenage brides who had a child before age 21 had experienced a marital breakdown by age 32, but only 14 per cent of teenage brides who had a

There is, too, an association between an individual's likelihood to get divorced and the marital status of his parents. The usual explanation is that marital conflict produces psychological instability in the children who express this instability in their own marriage. The other reason could be that divorced parents are not likely to oppose divorce in their own children, or may even encourage it.

There is also a relationship between particular occupations and high divorce rates: for example those that require long separations between spouses like truck-drivers or airline pilots and provide opportunities for them to meet members of the opposite sex. Similarly those which require a high degree of involvement in their work, and a correspondingly low degree of involvement in the marriage, like actors, authors, artists, company directors, and hotel-keepers are also very vulnerable.

It seems unlikely that one can "blame" marital breakdown on any one thing. There seems, to a large extent, to be a certain inevitability about the whole process. But this does not mean that one should see in rising rates of divorce, the imminent collapse of society.

The most optimistic thing to emerge from the whole picture is that while marriage may be becoming increasingly fragile, it still seems to be the focus for most of our efforts. It is no longer regarded as a strait-jacket, but a creative, living and fluid form that can be moulded to the times. Divorce, for most, means a change of direction, not the end.

We still, it seems, believe in the family as the best place to stabilize personalities. We continue to hold as an ideal the parent family, even though fewer and fewer families actually conform to the ideal of mother, father and biological offspring.

Nonetheless, when this unit breaks down, economic, social and psychological pressures seem to act upon individuals to recreate it—possibly because we have not hit upon another structure that can meet all the varied needs of the adults and children involved.

On Wednesday Broken homes and the children

Polruan, Cornwall

Looking out of the window at a sea that recalls crumbling sheets of corrugated iron, under a sky clouded over with what seems to be the grimy contents of a Hoover bag, I am cheered up by the thought that however much I hate being in Cornwall, Howard Jacobson hates my being here more.

Mr Jacobson runs a Cornish craft centre and tea shop and recently wrote an article in *The Times* entitled "A good time now you've gone". In it, he held holidaymakers responsible for ruining the lives and quite possibly the marriages of indigenous Cornish traders. I would find this a strange attitude on the part of someone who makes his living from tourists had I not encountered it among other members of the Cornish service industry. The prize for gratuitous hostility must go to the shop assistant in Looe who having told me that there was no long grain rice in stock, added: "You'll have to go hungry, now".

I would gladly leave both her and Mr Jacobson untroubled by my leathorn presence were I not married to a Cornishman who, from time to time, pines to take the woman he loves back to the village where his family has lived for 500 years.

People who were born in places that appear on picture postcards and turn up in Daphne du Maurier novels and poems by John Betjeman have an advantage over the rest of us as their longing to go back where they belong is regarded as perfectly right and proper.

It is impossible for me to get in on the act since I was brought up in Golders Green, a north London suburb that, as far as I know, has not found a niche in literature and folklore. Right now, I would give anything for a glimpse of its shops, its lanes and its rows of mock-Tudor semis, but this is not the point of view likely to find much sympathy. Would the song, "I'll take you home again Kathleen", have such poignancy if, instead of hailing from "where the fields are fresh and green", the sickly exile had come from East Cheam or Solihull? I doubt it.

It is a national tragedy that the Cornish, a race so deeply inhospitable that they keep the shortest possible pub opening hours and put up notices everywhere telling people what they mustn't do (even the greengrocer sticks "Don't Touch" placards on the cabbage) have been put in charge of a beautiful coastline and miles of charming countryside, the scenery, alas, that has always been a draw to holidaymakers.



PENNY PERRICK

I have often thought what a good idea it would be if all the Cornish could be transported to Liverpool and the Liverpoolians sent down here. For Liverpool, although a magnificent city, is through no fault of its own not a tourist trap. So the glowing hospitality of its inhabitants is squandered on a few business travellers and people grabbing a hasty supper before catching the ferry to Ireland.

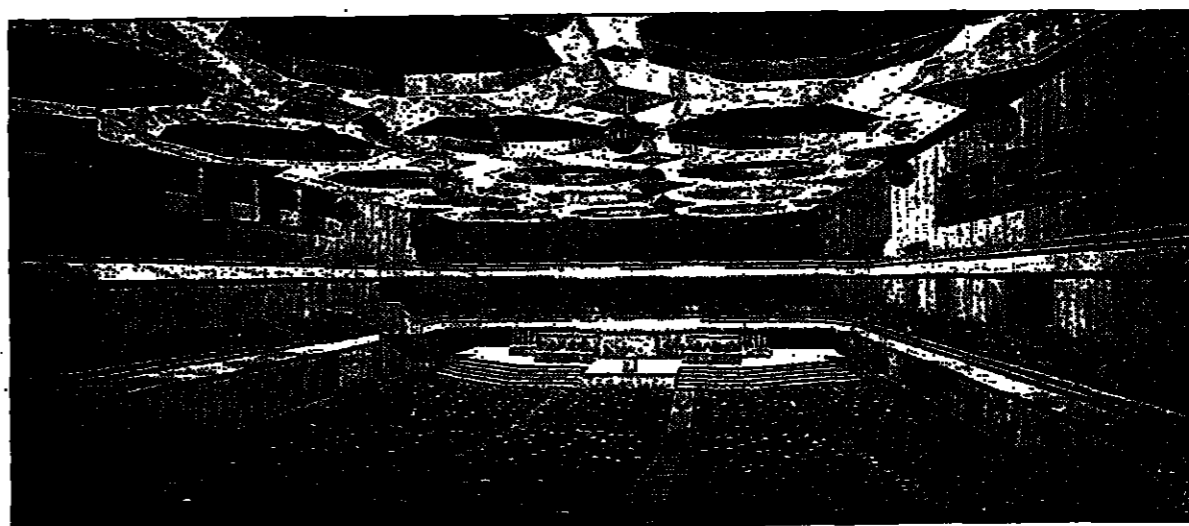
Were these friendly north-ers to take over Polruan, Polruan and Penzance there would be after-hours knees-ups in the pubs, a welcome in the hillsides, and a fish and chip shop in Fore Street.

As for the Cornish, they would have a wonderful time in Liverpool. A shop boarded up for lack of customers would bring a song to their hearts, and they wouldn't mind a bit if nobody came to stay at those glorious Victorian hotels in the city centre. They would just revel in the unvisited quiet.

Meanwhile, I am sullenly putting up with two weeks of Cornish R and R—standing not, I fear, in my case, for Rest and Recreation, but Rows and Recriminations. It is quite hard for a naturally glib Londoner (or as my husband would have it "two-faced"), to project the required degree of charmlessness, but I'm learning. At the end of a fortnight, I should be able to scowl fiercely enough to frighten the horses.

Putting up notices seems to be a Cornish obsession. A letter in the *Cornish Guardian* suggests that as well as signs forbidding dogs and ice creams, shops should display another proclaiming "no hyper-active children". There may be some difficulty in defining a state of hyper-activity. For I am pretty certain that, what the Cornish label "out of control", we natives of Golders Green would merely call "a touch lively, bless his little heart".

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CHARTING A SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Although more people are getting divorced for the second time, there are signs that the overall divorce rate and the average length of a marriage which ends in divorce, have stabilised since reaching record figures in 1980 of 148,300 divorces.

Last year 12 out of every 1,000 married people divorced and 147,400 divorces were made absolute, half a per cent more than the previous year.

But this recent decline in divorce figures masks a rise in the number of people divorcing for at least the second time. Last year, of 31,000 couples who divorced, one or both partners had gone through at least one previous divorce compared with 25,400 in 1980.

These figures, from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, show that the median duration of marriages ending in divorce has remained unchanged since 1980 at just over 10 years. But fewer marriages in the last decade — thought to be a result of postponement of marriage not its abandonment and changes in the population's age structure — have led to a four per cent increase in divorce among people aged over 35. Among people under 25, a total of 35 per cent fewer husbands and two per cent fewer wives were divorced last year.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the divorce rate never exceeded one per 1,000 married women, but the figure increased to six per 1,000 after 1945 and was attributed to the disruptive effects of the war on existing marriages and the number of unions hastily contracted in the period.

The rate fell back in the Fifties to around two per 1,000 and then rose again in the Sixties as legal aid became available to divorce petitioners. The Divorce Reform Act brought other changes as divorce became possible with the consent of both parties after a two year interval and with the consent of one party after a five-year delay.

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TALKBACK ON THE GILICK CAMPAIGN

Mind the effects

From Dr Andrew Wilski, 36 Edith Road, London, W14. Ann Kent has written a good article concerning Mrs Victoria Gillick and her campaign to stop doctors prescribing contraceptives for girls under 16 without their parents' knowledge (Monday Page, November 19). I wish to make only a few comments provoked mostly by the reported views of the British Medical Association, of which I am a member.

On the whole it seems to me that the contraceptive drugs are not treated with sufficient seriousness. The multitude of possible direct and indirect physical side-effects has only recently been publicized. The chief psychological effect consists in changing the very important human act which normally should inspire at least some sense of responsibility, altruism and reverence. The indirect psychological effects on general attitudes towards marriage and children are immeasurable. Moreover, it should be remembered that the use of contraceptive pills is promoted not only

by those who are motivated by good will. There are also those who are interested mainly in financial gain and those who are driven by a fanaticism, derived in some cases from hostility towards Christian values in general.

In view of this complex and controversial nature of the matter it is surprising that anyone can question the right of parents to know whether their children are given access to the contraceptive drugs.

Sexual life of adolescents is a difficult issue if one considers the intensity of their sexual desire, their undeveloped sense of moral values, the emotional neglect suffered by many and the prevalent early pseudomaturity. A relatively free dispensing of contraceptive pills by state employees stands in the way of truly helpful, non-institutional developments in their area of social life. Though maybe, time should not be too surprised. It is after all the year 1984.

Sex and standards

From M. Blogs, Cherry Tree House, 5a, St. Andrew's Road, Rochford, Essex. Ann Kent's article on Mrs

Gillick was unfair and completely biased. As a *Time's* reporter I would have thought that fairness in reporting would have been advocated. We saw none of this. We saw the heading "Why she must not win" — where I ask, was the heading "Why she must win?" I will tell you why she must win.

Here is a woman with standards, and this is what our society lacks today. Let us put sex back where it belongs — as part of marriage, not something to be thrown to our children, who are not emotionally, physically and psychologically equipped for such experiences. Let us educate our children, and start now, valuing family life and sex as part of it.

Mother courage

From Miss Joyce V. Duly, Bridgeway House, The Bridge-way, Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex.

I write in protest at the article concerning Mrs Victoria Gillick's case before the Appeal Court. I found the opening paragraph of this article particularly offensive in its derisory attack on Mrs V. Gillick, this

noble and courageous woman, who has had the tenacity and courage to exercise her right in law, to protect her daughters from receiving contraceptives under the age of 16, without parental authority.

I can only hope and pray that the Appeal Court will overrule the decision made by the High Court in July 1983, thereby giving Mrs Gillick and all other responsible and caring parents their right under the law of the land to protect their daughters from receiving advice on contraceptives without their authority.

Economic miracle

From Ruth Gowers, 1 Rowlands Close, Wolvercote, Oxford.

The article on the Gillick ménage is fascinating — and possibly the most fascinating thing about it is the revelation that the Gillicks spend £45 a week on food, to feed 12 people, presumably. Can we please hear how this is done?

On Thursday, November 22, The Court of Appeal reserved judgement in the Gillick case.

THE TIMES DIARY

Safety catch

Despite Britain's embarrassment over the recent return of two Russian soldiers to their homeland, I can disclose a further two Red Army defectors have been granted asylum in the West. Nikolai Golovine and Igor Kovalchuk, both in their early twenties, have been smuggled out of Afghanistan and are due to arrive in Europe any day. Count Nikolai Tolstoy, Oxford-based president of the Soviet Prisoners of War Rescue Committee, has secured asylum for them in West Germany, following negotiations through the German embassy in London. They are only the second pair to defect to Europe direct from Afghanistan. Count Tolstoy tells me that unlike the first two, who were brought to Britain by Lord Bethell, Golovine and Kovalchuk are not drug addicts, nor are they "morally broken down". They are also more likely to settle: unlike Lord Bethell's pair, who were isolated in Acton with an elderly Ukrainian couple, Tolstoy's soldiers will be accommodated with fellow Russians in their own age near Munich, where there is a large Russian community. Meanwhile he tells me the Foreign Office has not ruled out further defections to Britain despite the recent debacle. "The Foreign Office was *au fait* with the reasons for the pair's return so I don't feel too worried", said Tolstoy.

Brickbat

When a Ramsgate miner returned to work last week, it was the house next door that got three bricks through its window. Now the neighbour, Bernard Hewitt, has raised the matter with the NUM to see what it intends doing about the damage. Not much, it seems. Kent NUM president Malcolm Pitt says there is no evidence the attack was by his members and, anyway, since it is not union policy to throw bricks through windows, it cannot be held liable.

Cough up

After the shock dealt to Radio Four listeners by the allegedly down-market *Rollercoaster*, it may be time to start worrying about the network's nightly arts show *Kaleidoscope*. The surprise appointment of 28-year-old Tom Sutcliffe as editor from January has cast deep gloom over members of its production team - many of whom, old enough to be his father, went for the job themselves. With a senior World Service arts producer not even getting a final interview, they fear their superiors want a radical approach. Sutcliffe currently produces *New Provences*, an irreverent Radio Three arts magazine which last week carried a pastiche report on coughing at concerts. He insists, however, that he wants any new ideas to come from *Kaleidoscope*'s producers. From what I hear, at least one will first have to decide whether to stick around long enough to be asked.

Civil wrong

Liverpool Labour MP Robert Kilroy-Silk has received a writ from a Merseyside policeman. It alleges libel over remarks he made in July last year, after newspapers published a photograph of a protester apparently being kicked in the head by a policeman during a demonstration outside Walton. Quiraged, Kilroy-Silk - a former chairman of the PLE civil liberties group - called for the officer to be identified and suspended. In May, however, a jury heard eyewitness evidence that the camera had lied: the constable, Karl Kneale, had simply stumbled backwards in the crowd. After a 10-month suspension awaiting trial, he was cleared of assault. Solicitor Rex Makin, representing PC Kneale, who has also issued writs against three newspapers which carried the picture, yesterday said: "The time has come for politicians and trade unionists who condemn innocent police officers to understand even the most ordinary constable has civil rights." A solicitor for Kilroy-Silk said it was too early to say if the writ would be defended.



BARRY FANTONI
GCHQ

Edited
On the back page of the paper last week, illustrating *The Times* bicentenary book of stamps, a brisk young man was identified as John Walter II. He was, of course, Walter's great editor, Thomas Barnes. Typical, my shamefaced superiors were showing their notorious independence by refusing to notice the difference between their former editor and their former proprietor.

There is sad news from Ireland, though on this occasion it has nothing to do with the now usual reasons for Irish-inspired sadness. Somebody has at present a compulsory subject for all children in all state schools, should now be optional for those studying for the Leaving Certificate (the standard senior examination). Who has proposed it, and what status the proposal has, is by no means clear; the Minister of Education professes to know nothing about it, and there is much talk of sub-committees, recommendations and for all I know composite resolutions and the reference back. In short, it is so far more than a transient gleam in an apparently fishy eye.

But that was enough, apparently, to set knees jerking throughout the Republic. The two leading organizations concerned with the Irish language - one official and one voluntary - have leaped into the fray, and the fact that there is no fray for them to leap into has made no difference to the vigour and enthusiasm of their leaping. My old Irish friend A. O'Spokesman has already declared that he is "very alarmed about the proposal", that it is "of crucial importance" that Irish shall remain compulsory throughout the whole of the Irish school curriculum, and that "the necessity of teaching Irish to all children at all levels stems not only from its educational value but also from State policy". He added, in words that I would describe as Irish if it were not for the fear of being reported to the Race Relations Board, that "Real freedom of choice in language can only exist if all pupils at all levels are taught Irish". (As in "Compulsion is Freedom".)

Where, though, the sadness? It is fourfold. First, there is the display of that tragic Irish propensity to perform a double back-somersault if anyone suggests, however tentatively, that change might occasionally be contemplated, and that the fact that something has been done for a long time does not in itself constitute proof that it must go on being done for ever.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

O'Spokesman bites his tongue

Next comes the apparently inevitable contest among Irishmen to demonstrate, if necessary by breaking one another's heads, that each is more Irish than his fellows.

The third cause of regret is the one that chiefly concerns me today, even though the fourth, when we come to it, will be seen to be the most important.

For many years now, Irish governments of all political complexions have sought to encourage the love and knowledge of their beautiful language. It is a wholly commendable desire; nothing, as even its geography or its mode of government, so defines a nation as its language, and I have always been sorry that so few Irish people speak their ancient tongue. But that is rather the point, isn't it? The Irish governments which instituted, and have maintained, compulsory Irish in schools fell into one of the oldest traps in history; they believed, and the present government no doubt still believes, that you can make a nation speak a language by compelling it to learn it in school. The fact that the first thing most Irish people do on leaving school is to stop trying to talk in any language other than English ought to have demonstrated fairly conclusively that there was a fallacy about, but no government, Irish, British or anything else, has ever been much given to noticing fallacies, particularly when they are the government's own.

You do not have to cross the Irish Sea to see the fallacy demonstrated; Offa's Dyke will do quite as well. The great majority of the Welsh people do not speak Welsh and make it plain that they do not wish to; that is why some organizations

claiming to further the interests of the Welsh language have had to resort to violence, and why a succession of feeble Secretaries of State in the Welsh Office have behaved as though the Welsh-speaking minority have rights which supersede those of the rest of Wales. (The Welsh television channel is probably the most ridiculous result of this attitude.)

I think that the slow dying of the Welsh language, which will be a much quicker dying if the violent extremists go on trying to thrust it down Welsh throats by force, is as great a pity as the dying of its Irish cousin. I shall never forget a train journey I took many years ago in Wales; it was a remote branch line (no doubt long since beeching to death), and the train itself - it had only one coach - looked like a toy one. I was the only Sais aboard; all my fellow-passengers were middle-aged Welsh ladies, and they all spoke Welsh throughout the journey. Without understanding a word of it (the only thing I can say in Welsh is "Arses to Englishmen"), I was bathed for three-quarters of an hour in the music of that strange, ancient tongue, and I got off the train feeling as though I had been wallowing in Mozart. I doubt very much whether the children of those ladies speak Welsh today, and I will confidently wager that even if they do their children won't. And that saddens me, as I feel it ought to sadden any inhabitant of this island.

Only the Scots seem to have got this thing right (I don't know about the Manx, let alone those Cornishmen who want to speak Cornish); very few of them speak Gaelic, but

those who do show no sign of wanting to force their fellow-countrymen to learn it, nor is there anything to match the pitiful insistence, in Wales, on bilingual signs and similar flapdoodle.

Which brings me to the fourth, and most important, reason for sadness at the news from Ireland with which I began; I have touched upon it in my discussion of the other three, but I think I ought to make it clear. A language, as I have said, defines a nation. The silly modern fashion for denying the force of nationalism, indeed for denying the existence, let alone the validity, of it, is about as sensible as would be a campaign to abolish the Equator. The strength and cohesion of the people of an ancient country depends on their recognition of themselves as citizens by blood as well as passport. When the bonds of language begin to fray, that recognition begins to fade, and the fact that there is little we can do about it (and nothing that governments and laws can do about it), makes it all the more regrettable.

For what exactly is it against which national feeling stands as a rock? It is, surely, the deadly centripetal wearing away of all differences between people.

There are those who welcome this development, and urge its furtherance. They are fools, the same kind of fools as those who would break a drum to find out what inside it, is making the noise. The most conspicuous and melodious drum in the world is that of language, and that is why we should all feel sad that the Irish and Welsh languages are being spoken less and less, and that those who seek to halt this decline are, by their actions, only encouraging it, and such a wish must and can come only from within. I have no doubt that the Irish government, now that the row has started, will insist on keeping the study of Irish compulsory for all its schools and for all children in them, and I have no doubt that the speaking of Irish will nonetheless - no, not nonetheless, therefore - continue on its slow, melancholy path to extinction.

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Nicholas Timmins examines a private GP service that is breaking new ground

Health ministers, even Conservative ones, rarely visit the private sector. It tends to frighten the 90 per cent-plus of the population who do not have private medical insurance, and to raise suspicions that the NHS is not safe in Tory hands.

Next month, however, health minister Kenneth Clarke is off to the Harrow Health Care Centre, a unique facility in a field where private medicine has made next to no impact - family GP services.

The centre, which celebrates its second birthday this month, is the brainchild of Dr Michael Goldsmith, an entrepreneurial 36-year-old GP who believes he has an alternative to the NHS which offers choice and an incentive for doctors to practice good preventive medicine.

What seems to have caught the eye of Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, and the Number 10 policy unit is that the Harrow centre is the nearest Britain has to a fledgling Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), a way of organizing health care which is beginning to put the lid on soaring medical costs in the United States.

In the insurance-based US system, doctors are usually paid a fee for each item of service, an approach that has proved a powerful incentive to treat patients as much as as expensively as possible. Under HMO the patient, usually funded by his employer, contracts with the HMO for cover. The HMO in turn contracts with groups of doctors and hospitals to provide the services. Many HMOs offer doctors a share of the profits, providing a carrot to keep down costs, to keep patients healthy through screening and health education, and to keep them out of hospital as much as possible.

The Harrow centre, a former Dixon's photographic factory now decorated in private-sector pastel, is a far cry from all that but contains the germ of the same idea. Patients pay £80 a year (£52 a year for children and £250 for a family of four) for round-the-clock family doctor cover, with an additional £10 for a home visit (£5 for a child), and the option of paying for drugs as they are needed, or paying a flat-rate £32 a year.

The centre provides three full-time and two part-time doctors, physiotherapy, its own pharmacy, X-ray and minor operations room. It also provides, for a fee, executive check-ups, company medical services and full cardiac screening, activities that bring in about one third of the centre's £500,000 turnover. The doctors are salaried.

On signing up, a patient gets a full half-hour check-up with a doctor, half an hour with a nurse, a batch of tests and a dose of health education. For later consultations, each patient gets 15 minutes with the doctor rather than the NHS average of six. The centre runs recall schemes for cervical smears and for patients with high blood pressure.

The emphasis on preventive medicine and the minor operations and X-ray facilities has persuaded Private Patients Plan to offer the centre's patients a 40 per cent



Healthy and wealthy - if the plan is truly wise

discount, in the belief that their claim rate for private hospital treatment will be low.

Dr Goldsmith's boast is that no one is prevented from joining by age or previous medical history; that the centre has the same proportion of the more costly over-65s as other local doctors; and that the social mix is not heavily slanted towards the healthier As and Bs. Those who have joined include taxi drivers, small shopkeepers, firemen, police and a number of the local Asia population - who, Dr Goldsmith says "traditionally don't do well out of the NHS because they don't know their doctors socially and are less articulate".

Answering the critics who said that elderly patients and the fixed-price drug charge would rapidly sink him, Dr Goldsmith maintains that the centre is about to go into profit. Although the basic £85 charge has risen 30 per cent since the centre opened, Independent Medical Associates are planning up to five more centres over the next year, including somewhere like Hackney. Dr Goldsmith concedes: "We have to prove this model can work in inner cities and that even people of limited means are interested".

Dr Goldsmith hopes that the Government will consider some health equivalent to the education voucher giving patients who contract out of the NHS family doctor service a rebate of £50 to

spend in centres such as his, leading to 30 centres in five years, he argues. The idea could then be extended to hospitals.

Competition between hospitals would be provided, together with choice for patients, and fewer demands on the public purse for capital to build hospitals and GP surgeries. Those unable to top up the voucher would have the full costs met by the state. A version of the HMO would in effect be reinvented over here.

There is no sign yet that Norman Fowler is interested in anything so radical. For a start, without a network of private family doctor centres there would be nowhere to spend the voucher. The Harrow experience can still offer lessons in economical prescribing: the pharmacy less over £5 a head on the flat-rate drug charge, but prescribing costs are 25 per cent lower than in the NHS - £2.94 per patient so far, against £4.03. Fowler's recent announcement of limits to drug use in the NHS, however, goes some way towards cutting the drug bill.

It is clear that patients generally like what they get at the Harrow centre. Apart from the X-ray suite, however, it offers little that isn't available in the best NHS group practices and nothing, apart from executive check-ups, that isn't available somewhere in the NHS, although not usually so conveniently and instantly under one roof. What

Dr Michael Goldsmith at the centre: private prevention

the patients clearly do get is time - time to talk to the doctor, and the feeling of a personalized service. Time however costs money.

Each GP in the centre is dealing with less than 1,000 patients, compared to the NHS average of 2,100. While some 3,200 patients have joined the centre, Dr Goldsmith has not exactly been killed in the rush. A few of the patients come from outside the original 3½ mile catchment area and talk in the early days of closing the list at 9,000 now looks slightly hollow. Not that many patients, it seems, are sufficiently dissatisfied with the NHS in the area to pay the price of about two packets of cigarettes a week, or less than a packet a day for a family, for the personalized service.

The theory that the centre's approach will be highly cost-effective has also still to be proved. Only some 180 of the 3,000 patients have taken advantage of PPF's discount health insurance, and PPF says the group is too small and young for its claims rate to be assessed. "We offered the discount because we believed the centre's approach would work", a spokesman said. "But at the moment that's a statement of faith".

Dr Goldsmith's service, including routine X-rays and drugs, worked out at £95 a head last year, roughly double the cost of the NHS GP service of £49, including home visits and drugs, according to DHSS figures.

Dr Goldsmith has shown there is a market for his service. He still has a great deal more to prove. But with Kenneth Clarke preparing a Green Paper on the future of family doctor services, and with the right looking for ways to persuade people to spend more on their own health care, it is unlikely that we have heard the last has been heard of him.

nothing dismissive about that "mere" which has shifted its meaning. She was making a very political point. Her predecessor and half-sister, Mary, had a Spanish mother and a Spanish husband, who was now claiming the English throne on the strength of that marriage. Elizabeth was appealing to the patriotism of her sailors, by telling them that she was as pure English as they were. The contrast with her unpopular predecessor is pointed. She was not being mock modest. Understatement was not her style, nor that of the age.

This was the girl who, threatened by the Armada, said things like, "I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too; and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm." When Elizabeth I described herself as "mere English", what she meant was "complete and undiluted English". There was

Graham Mather

Why employ a jobs policy that fails?

The search is under way in Whitehall for coherent, cost-effective job creation policies compatible with overall government economic strategy. It is both revealing and indicative that, in this welcome and overdue reassessment, nowhere is it being seriously suggested that regional industrial police has anything to offer.

Regional policy has been one of the Government's main tools for reducing imbalances in employment opportunities. But the Government's White Paper on regional industrial development has now admitted the failures and shortcomings of existing policy.

Why, then, is the ministerial announcement due at the end of this week likely to perpetuate a system which, if exposed to any large-scale debate in the current political climate, would be likely to disappear? The answer is that regional policy in its existing form develops overpowering and irreconcilable political pressures.

The economic case for existing regional policy is highly questionable. Regional grants and incentives have misdirected resources to projects which would otherwise be non-viable, such as Ravenscraig, Invergordon, Linwood or De Lorean, or have pumped millions of pounds into projects which had no alternative possible location, such as the Sullom Voe terminal.

Regional Policy has been expensive in terms of cost per job. An overall average of £35,000 has, in some sectors, been nearer to £316,000 per job. Few are "real" new jobs. As the White Paper put it, "Many of the jobs said to be 'created' would otherwise have come into existence elsewhere in the country, and should thus be described as 'transfers'". It is perhaps surprising that it is perhaps surprising that the disengagement with regional development grants is shared by businessmen who have expressed a preference for either regional rate relief, or reductions in national insurance contributions in assisted areas.

Between 1979 and 1982, the size of the assisted area map was reduced from coverage of 44 per cent of the workforce to 27 per cent. Yet political pressure in areas affected by factory closures has pushed the number of assisted areas up again. Worse, European Regional Development Fund Aid is available only to areas with some form of assisted status. So ministers are now tempted to put the reduction of the Assisted Area map into reverse to get the European money.

In doing so they hit another obstacle. Most current regional development grants are automatic

for qualifying companies. An extension of the map therefore, like economic recovery generally, increases rather than reduces spending. But spending has to be cut because, inter alia, the Government itself admits that "the argument that regional industrial policy produces a net national economic benefit is open to debate".

The way out of this conundrum is to turn more regional aid into selective or discretionary funding, controlled by civil servants and regional advisory boards. Yet selectivity is wholly at odds with overall economic policy. In the final analysis it substitutes the decisions of officials, or quangos for those of businessmen. It inevitably implies more bureaucracy, more delay, less certainty of outcome of applications.

Declaring that, despite the faintest doubts about the efficacy of regional policy, the Government was nonetheless "committed to an effective regional industrial policy", the White Paper led ministers into still another trap. If regional policy was to continue areas like the West Midlands, which has watched project after project locate in Scotland or the North East, themselves began to clamour for assisted areas status as the only means of righting the equation.

The justification for regional policy was now "principally a social one". If social should be read political, this is clear enough. If it really meant social, why then did the White Paper not address some of the factors which influence business start-up and locational decisions?

Any new approach ought to consider what makes different regions less attractive to business investment. These often include culture and attitude, mismatch of education facilities to business needs, planning constraints, shortage of the most industrial or domestic accommodation, the perceived industrial relations climate, shortage of management skills. All these questions influence investment decisions, which is why local authority and new town industrial development officers up and down Britain are daily seeking to convince businessmen that they will find solutions to them in their own area.

Against this background, the Department of Trade and Industry's approach to regional policy has been disappointing. Its White Paper closed off the scope for sensible debate before it could begin. Unless ministers can perform a last-minute reappraisal, the White Paper's solutions will have a jaded and sterile air to them at the end of this month, just as new thinking about jobs is gathering speed elsewhere.

The author is head of the Policy Unit at the Institute of Directors.

Anne Sofer

Looking to the actor for a part

Not a great cinema-goer, I have been to two films in the last month. Both had rave reviews and were recommended by friends. Both, as it turned out, were produced by transnational companies and shot in America, and both had a similar theme - what the popular press so aptly calls a "lug of love". The two films were *Paris, Texas* and *The Bostonians*.

For those who have not seen them, I recap briefly. *Paris, Texas* is set in the present and involves an endearing and precocious Californian nine-year-old and his relationship with his adoptive parents (his uncle and aunt), his crazed father, and his gone-to-the-bad mother. *The Bostonians* is the film version of the Henry James novel about the fight between an intense feminist and an attractive Southern male chauvinist for the allegiance of a gifted and beautiful young recruit to the women's suffrage movement.

I hated (and walked out of) *Paris, Texas* and loved (and will continue to see again) *The Bostonians*; and I am puzzled that reviewers - whose standards I always assume approximate to my own - have become so unreliable. Asking around, I find that others are similarly bemused.

Maybe, and I bravely confront myself with the possibility, I am getting old. I have noticed that the appeal of nostalgia grows year by year, and that well-reconstructed Victorian and Edwardian film-sets are almost enough in themselves to merit an Oscar in my eyes.

In fact *The Bostonians*, entrancing though its period setting is, deals with an all-too-contemporary theme, and puts the question - "Are marriage and feminism compatible?" - more provocatively than it is put in current political debate.

The audience on the night I was there reacted with a sort of suspicious sophistication to those moments when male dominance seemed to be winning. A romantic clinch, with the distressed little woman wrapped reassuringly in the strong man's arms, caused irritated rustlings and tut-tuttings. Conditioned as we were to see this as the ultimate cinematic experience, we also knew it to be the ultimate in sexist manipulation. But nobody walked out; we were spellbound by the duel.

Paris, Texas, by contrast, has no overt political relevance. The characters have "normal" sexual and parental loyalties. Compared to the characters in *The Bostonians*, they express them with banality, hesitancy and hopelessness. It is clearly intentional, and symbolic that all the most emotional utterances are into telephones and tape-recorders and walkie-talkies. As a "lug-of-love" it lacks tautness because nobody has the courage even to pick up the rope.

The resulting flatness produces a film full of soulful silences: very slow, very boring, very miserable. Plenty of miles are burned-up on inter-state highways, many catatonic nights spent in assorted suicide-inducing motels, but there is no natural and spontaneous communication. There is not even a good row.

Those of us who walked out, or stayed the course but criticised the film, are probably not sure whether we rejected the film's artistry or the reality it sought to convey. It is hard to accept that in this most free and affluent of countries people fail so miserably in their personal relationships - more miserably, it would seem, than ever before.

The greatest contrast between the two films is in their sense of place. In both a place-name is the title. But whereas the Henry James story, both in the possessive form of the word and in the character of the tale, is laying claim to a municipal identity - with some irony, it is true, but also affectionate pride - *Paris, Texas* is more about dislocation than location.

The place is not where it is supposed to be, and nobody goes there anyway. It exists as a remembered family joke and a piece of mail-order real estate which is, at one point in the film, the only thing binding the central character (the crazed father) to reality. This thought, unexpectedly and weeks after the event, brings me to the conclusion that the film, bathetic as it appeared, does have political relevance at all. If the contemporary mood of Americans is really that lost, that unsure where they came from and where they are going to, where they should live and with whom, then the overwhelming appeal of President Reagan's simple (some would say simple-minded) patriotism is easily understood.

His victory is not so much the result of buoyant self-confidence, which is how it is presented in most European press comment, as of hysterical relief that someone has told Americans who they are and where they belong. On this view, it is a symptom not of new-found security but of a deep and unacknowledged identity crisis.

Henry James's *Bostonians*, for all their radical leanings, would not have understood it at all. Even the Southern seducer from the bitter, impoverished and defeated state of Mississippi has a confident sense of his own identity. When, a few years ago, Alex Haley's *Roots* broke all viewing records, it was assumed that a specifically black yearning for roots gave the drama its appeal. Maybe the feeling is more general - and more desperate.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Deride and rule

New words for old, by Philip Howard

ally become frozen as misquotations, more honoured in the breach than the observance, to use that tag correctly. You cannot study language without studying history as well. Words live and have their meaning in historical contexts. I am much obliged to the learned Ann Beausire of Oxford for drawing my attention to a couple of popular historical misunderstandings that have passed through my mind many times without causing a ripple.

The first is John Knox's "monstrous regiment of women", a famous speech in which Queen Elizabeth I described herself as "mere English". What she meant was "complete and undiluted English". There was

or government. It was a favourite word of his: "Ane man maist unworthy of any regiment in ane weill rewilt commonwealth." When he wrote, Mary Tudor reigned in England, and Mary Stuart in Scotland, and that was the little bigot found monstrous. He had nothing against woman in general (in their proper place, of course, ye ken), though it is clear from his pamphlet that he was not into Women's Lib.

The other fashionable historical misquotation comes in the famous speech in which Queen Elizabeth I described herself as "mere English". What she meant was "complete and undiluted English". There was



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POWER AND SUPERPOWER

"The elementary means by which all foreign policy must be conducted are the armed forces of the nation, the arrangements of its strategic position and the choice of its alliances. In the American ideology of our time these things have come to be regarded as militaristic, imperialistic, reactionary and archaic. The proper concern of right-minded men was peace, disarmament and the choice between non-intervention and collective security."

These words were written by Walter Lippman 40 years ago but they accurately describe the trend of American foreign policy in the wake of the Vietnam defeat in the early seventies. That defeat was accompanied by a period of western appeasement which resulted in a dramatic expansion of Soviet influence into Laos, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Yemen, Libya, Syria, Zaire, Madagascar, Seychelles, Nicaragua and Grenada. To that must be added a continuous decline in the self-confidence of the Atlantic Alliance and a faltering in the purposiveness of United States policy in the Middle East and Central America.

Mr Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980 on a clear platform to restore America's strategic confidence by increasing its defence strength and discontinuing these policies of appeasement. Throughout his first term every effort was made by the Soviet Union to prevent that occurring. The Soviet expansion continued, as did the intimidation of America's formal and informal allies.

Fortunately the American electorate held its nerve, as did the Alliance - just. The cruise missiles were installed. The allies refused to be bullied into making any concessions simply to resume negotiations broken off unilaterally in a fit of pique by the other side. By September it was clear that the Soviet Union had begun to adjust to the failure of its diplomacy. Mr Gromyko visited Washington in recognition of Soviet assumptions that President Reagan would indeed be leading the Alliance for the next four years.

After his re-election there is now a recurring and world-wide attempt to induce President Reagan to change the policies and attitudes on which he has twice been elected to represent his country. That is not surprising given the persistence of Soviet diplomacy. Soviet leaders work to long rhythms which outpace the historic breathlessness of western electoral time-tables. Soviet leaders exploit their advantage and they are helped in this, not always unconsciously, by the pervasive cultural refusal in the western liberal establishments to recognize and accept the hard simple principles of Mr Reagan's leadership for which he received such decisive confirmation in the election, against all liberal hopes and predictions.

A liberation for the United States

This principle is the reassertion of American power and self-confidence and an end to appeasement. So why is it that now, after a second endorsement, there is so much pressure for change? One can see it even in Dr Kissinger's recent article in *The Sunday Times* where he starts by deploring the fact that, "for too long presidential elections have led to reassessments of American foreign policy" and then contradicts himself a few paragraphs later by suggesting that, "the deepest significance of Reagan's second term is that it has liberated the US to undertake in a climate of conciliation a long overdue reassessment of the basic assumptions of its foreign policy". Double-speak indeed.

The deepest significance of Reagan's second term is that it has indeed liberated the United States. It has liberated it from the incubus of a period of détente and appeasement which was thought by most commentators to be the new and settled orthodoxy, as Lippman had perceived it to be in a previous phase. It has liberated it with the opportunity to consolidate the Reagan policies of the first term without being undermined by persistent attempts to prove the ephemerality of those policies, their lack of substance and durability. In other words there should be no change. There should be no "reassessment" suggesting any revision of Mr Reagan's basic principles. His opportunity is now to show the world that he is consistent and that his policies, when he leaves the stage, will have had an eight year period to unfold without the disadvantage of some so-called mid-term "reassessment" undermining those principles to which

he has stuck throughout his first term and for which he received the electors' approval for a second.

In the light of the proposed Shultz/Gromyko meeting in the new year what should this mean? Mr Reagan has always, quite rightly, indicated a willingness to talk but from a position of strength. That combination must be maintained. The Soviet Union respects strength as much as it exploits weakness. It will try every trick in its book to use such discussions to undermine American strength and repair some of its own strategic weaknesses. We should thus examine the Soviet position with care to be continuously aware of those weaknesses and determined on the need to perpetuate them.

Too often, in the détente period, the response to so-called Soviet insecurity was an expression of western guilt leading to some reduction in our strength as though it would be possible, in the words of Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, "to control anybody's aggressive behaviour by taking care not to frustrate them unduly in the first place". Appeasement is based inevitably on wishful thinking about the people whom one is trying to appease.

Reagan's chance for manoeuvre

Soviet society is mobilized for war, both a shooting war and a class war. Since the Geneva Conference of 1922 Soviet officials have been carrying western economic assistance to make up for their strategic weaknesses while their leaders have used double-talk to conceal their aggressive intentions against the free world.

However, the Soviet Union desires the fruits of war without the risks. That is the basis of Mr Reagan's main opportunity now. There is a common interest in avoidance of nuclear war and therefore in avoiding any rituals which might lead to one. That gives ample room for tactical manoeuvre. First, there is much to discuss to remind the Soviet Union that its relationship with the other major nuclear power cannot be pushed too far in peripheral non-nuclear settings without eventually jeopardising the mutual concern they both have for the prevention of nuclear tensions. It has to be made clear to the Soviet Union that their persistent struggle in these peripheral areas makes it necessary for the United States to maintain and improve its strategic nuclear superiority over Soviet capabilities.

Secondly, this common desire to avoid nuclear war must affect negotiations about such new nuclear systems. It is thus important for Mr Reagan to persist with the Strategic Defence Initiative. That is the underlying source of pressure on the Soviet leadership. It has brought it back to the negotiating table and it should not be eased up unless and until a decisive arms control arrangement is identified. Such an arrangement must include significant reductions in arsenals but only achieved on the basis of clear principles of equality and cast-iron guarantees about verification. Nothing else would be satisfactory. There is no strategic security in a succession of diplomatic nods and winks. Thus the refusal of Washington's bureaucracies to come clean now about the record of Soviet arms control violations does not augur well for the conclusion of any agreement which will command real, as against rhetorical confidence.

However, persistence with the SDI and President Reagan's other major defence programme has even more profound implications for the Soviet-American relationship. As Zbigniew Brzezinski, former head of Carter's National Security Council, has observed, the Soviet system is a world power of a new type, "in that its might is one-dimensional. It is a global power only in the military dimension but in no other. It is neither a genuine economic rival to the US nor - as once was the case - even a source of a globally interesting ideological experiment". The Soviet economy is in the throes of a long historic decline. Professor Cyril Black of Princeton has noted that the Soviet Union, in spite of all the suffering, killing and social disruption of the last 65 years, occupies no higher rank in the table of world social and economic indices than it did 20 years before the revolution.

The full implications of this decline are not likely yet to be apparent to Soviet leaders - and with such a mendacious and self-serving bureaucracy beneath them, why should they expect to be told these uncomfortable

truths? However, the Brzezinski conclusion is that Soviet military power, while progressively unable to challenge American power on the basis of equality, is still able to impose its one-dimensional character on the world as a kind of Pax Sovietica. It will nevertheless continue to disrupt existing international arrangements. The Soviet interest will be to undo the stability of the free world system. It will operate at the sub-nuclear level by continuing to foster greater international anarchy where it suits Soviet purposes in stimulating terrorism, insurrection and uncertainty in those areas which are regarded as politically valuable or sensitive to the west.

The challenge facing Mr Reagan, therefore, is to see that such disruptive behaviour goes unrewarded. He must not be seduced either by Soviet diplomacy, or by his own officials, into thinking that the prize of an arms control agreement justifies overlooking these disruptively offensive tactics elsewhere. Consequently the west under his leadership should exercise the most rigorous constraint on any economic benefits to the Soviet Union which encourage or facilitate its military adventurism. There should be no exchange of strategic technology, or know-how, or concealed and unnecessary assistance to the Soviet military economy by, for instance, the grain deal which in 1972 not only involved a 300 million dollar subsidy but contributed to a substantial western inflation of grain prices.

For such a policy of economic discipline to be applied, Mr Reagan has to enlist the active support of his major industrial allies in Europe and Japan. The leaders of those countries share a general assessment of Soviet policy. They could be ready for a concerted approach given clear leadership from President Reagan and greater evidence of teamwork and coherence in those parts of his administration concerned with developing grand strategy.

West can be more self-confident

Above all, and in the light of the presidential election, the west should now approach the Soviet Union with increased self-confidence. From that should flow a refusal to be bullied. Indeed there is a case for a change of attitude which suggests some element of counter-offensive against the long assault on our values by the Marxist-Leninists. This is already apparent at the detailed level of Nato's tactical military planning but there are subtler avenues to pursue.

We must organize and coordinate our policy to achieve greater differentiation within the Soviet system. There should be differentiation between the Russian peoples and their Soviet masters; between the East European peoples and their Soviet occupiers; between the Soviet signature at Helsinki and their abject failures to honour that signature (from the barbarity of the Berlin wall, the constant jamming of western broadcasts to the refusal of elementary civil rights to their citizens); between their professed desire to take part in international security structures and a chronic refusal to share knowledge about how their own decisions are made. Unless the west can monitor their political processes with the same freedom as the Soviets do ours, there can be no question of mutual security. We cannot yet do so and the Soviets show no sign of recognizing that fact. There can thus be no genuine security between us and the relationship must remain based on this inherent danger.

Differentiation, verification and vigilance. Those must be Mr Reagan's watchwords. He must rely on firmness of purpose and clear principles. It would be fatal to change course now in response to pressures to restore the dangerous illusions of the period of détente in the 1970s. The Soviet Union is showing a positive reaction to President Reagan's policy of increasing American military strength. He should not now allow his dealings with Moscow to develop into a weblike system such as Dr Kissinger tried to weave, to the point where the system became an end in itself so that the United States was deprived of the freedom to apply strict conditionality to each and every individual act of mischief perpetrated by Soviet hostility. That freedom must be preserved if the United States and its allies are to be able to cope with a system which operates on an inherently outmoded, malevolent, discredited and dishonourable ideology: an evil empire indeed.

New criteria for university entry

From Mr G. MacDonald Ross
Sir, As long as the Government is paying the bill for university education it is only proper that it should retain ultimate responsibility for how public money is spent, by regulating student numbers, determining length of courses, fixing salaries, monitoring the degree-awarding monopolies and so on. If we disagree with its policies we have recourse to the parliamentary process and the ballot box.

However, once students (with or without parental help) are paying out of their own pockets for their education as well as for their upkeep the situation is radically changed. Degree-awarding institutions cease to be simply dispensers of state patronage and enter into new contractual and moral relationships with their clientele, and indeed with their would-be clients.

For example, why should candidates for admission, ready to pay their own way, be denied the chance of a degree merely because their A levels are below the going rate? I have even heard of people offering to pay overseas fees so as to avoid home and EC quotas.

Again, why should there not be cut-price options: no subsidised accommodation, catering and recreation; or shorter, more intensive courses? Why should qualifications not be awarded on ability and performance alone, without any fixed residential or course requirements?

Should there be closer outside monitoring of examination standards - is it proper that the teachers one pays should also assess the effectiveness of their own teaching? What looks like a minor fiscal adjustment in fact has enormous implications for the very concept of a university-level education. No doubt the Secretary of State for Education has a clear perception of what wedge this is the thin end of. It is therefore all the more urgent for us in the universities to decide whether we wish to give constructive encouragement to our Government in its long-term aims or to rise to the challenge of explaining why a financial relationship between teacher and taught is damaging, either to essential educational ideals, or to the broader national interest.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MACDONALD ROSS,
(Tutor for Undergraduate Admissions),
The University of Leeds,
Department of Philosophy,
Leeds,
November 23.

Law of the Sea

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch

Sir, I wish to support most strongly the Director of the British Maritime League (November 12) in urging the British Government to sign the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. I am, of course, hardly post-1945 world order, hardly yet crystallised, is sorely beset by conflict, near chaos, and incipient anarchy. For Britain, inescapably a maritime nation, to opt out of the leadership which she is still well able to provide, could be fatal. Whatever the departmental arguments against signing the convention, be they political, economic or military, Britain's overriding interest, combining all three elements, must surely lie with the consolidation of good order at sea in the international conditions which now prevail.

In the past, possession of a near-monopoly of seapower enabled Britain to determine what were "lawful occasions" as well as to ensure the safety of those who were going about them. It is not like that any more. Maritime interests and the naval power to support them are widely diffused, even if overshadowed by the USA-USSR confrontation.

The politics of abundance are giving way, under the pressures of population and the demands of industrialisation, to the politics of scarcity. Conflict remains endemic, arising from the random distribution of mineral resources in relation to political boundaries.

Let us try to manage the sea affair better. Our present Government has not shown itself to be noticeably sea-minded. Let it now take the plunge - and sign!

Yours faithfully,
IAN McGEACH,
Southern,
Castle Hedingham,
Halstead,
Essex,
November 13.

Future of the left

From Mr Ben Pimlott
Sir, Michael Ignatieff's stimulating article (November 16) about *The Future of the Left and Fabian Essays in Socialism* (which I edited for the Fabian Society) made points which all of us should ponder. Unfortunately, it was also inaccurate.

Professor Brian Abel-Smith (who is described as one of the *New Socialist* writers when, in fact, his important essay on "Social Welfare" appears in the Fabian collection) is quoted as saying that while socialism is about equality, "the Labour movement is about differentials".

By changing "trade unionism" to "Labour movement" Ignatieff sweeps in the Labour Party as well. But this was very clearly not the author's meaning.

Yours sincerely,
BEN PIMLOTT,
166 Richmond Road,
Hackney, E8,
November 16.

Passing judgment on public spending

From Mr David Shapiro
Sir, Both you, in your leader of November 8, and the Director General of the Royal Institute of Public Administration (letter, November 15) are indulging in dangerous wishful thinking about the control of public expenditure.

You evidently expect that "a central unit specifically concerned with evaluating the functions of government right across departmental boundaries" will dispense with what Mr Plowden terms "deeply unsatisfactory knock-down and drag-out processes whereby, each year, aggregate departmental bids for shares of public expenditure are cut down to the total required by the Treasury".

But does any one suppose that this year's total was what was required by the Treasury? And is this central unit, composed presumably of officials or other non-elected appointees, to substitute its judgment for that of the Cabinet?

No amount of preparation of an annual review of expenditure will dispense with political debate, with ministerial haggling, leaking and the drumming up of outside support. Why should we wish to avoid this?

The preparation of this year's autumn economic statement has surely been an admirably open piece of democratic politics.

There remains the serious question of whether these reviews could be better prepared centrally. By now we should be sceptical of administrators' reforms in this area. The Public Expenditure Survey, invented by Otto Clarke and sanctioned by the Plowden (senior) committee, was supposed to have done this job from 1961. The procedure was reformed in 1967 (relative price effect), in the mid-1970s (cash limits) and in the 1980s (cash planning).

Alternatives or supplements to the Public Expenditure Survey Committee have come and, mostly, gone: large departments, the Central Policy Review Staff, the Business Team and Programme Analysis and Review (all c 1970); output budgeting, zero budgeting have been earnestly recommended but little practised.

Mr Plowden (junior) is right in arguing that establishing the

transcending existing relationships and seeking a return to full communion with one another.

The attainment of that goal will be at best seriously complicated, at worst totally prevented, by the step the bishops propose.

The return to full communion entails the mutual recognition of ministries. But ministries cannot be mutually recognised when some of the people ordained by one church cannot be accepted as true priests by the other.

In 1976 Pope Paul VI, who had been asked by Archbishop Donald Coggan to state the Roman Catholic position, replied that for the Anglican Communion to ordain women would create a "new and grave obstacle" to the reconciliation of the two churches.

In the same year the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in the declaration *Inter insigniores*, treated it as a matter of doctrine and not only of discipline that the priesthood should be held only by males. This remains the official position of the Roman Catholic Church, even though some may think it has not spoken its last word on the subject.

It is true that, since the Roman Catholic Church is seeking reconciliation with the worldwide Anglican Communion and not only with the Church of England, the "grave obstacle" already exists now that the ordination of women has taken place in other provinces.

Nevertheless it seems likely that progress towards full communion will not proceed everywhere at the same rate. In provinces where women have not been ordained such progress will be certainly less complicated, probably more rapid, and perhaps less restricted.

It is, of course, for the Church of England alone to assess the weight to be attached to these factors in comparison with the other important considerations to which the bishops refer. I am writing simply to try to prevent the decision from being based on a mistaken understanding of the ecumenical position.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD YARNOLD,
Campion Hall, Oxford.

From the Reverend Canon Howard Root
Sir, In your report (November 16) of the debate in the General Synod on the ordination of women you quote the Bishop of Southwark as saying: "I want to argue that the only way to safeguard the doctrine of God in his fullness is to ordain women as well as men."

Is the bishop not therefore committed to the breathtaking view that neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the Orthodox churches of the East can "safeguard the doctrine of God in his fullness"?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD ROOT,
(Archbishop of Canterbury's Counsellor on Vatican Affairs),
The Anglican Centre,
303 Via del Corso, Rome,
November 21.

created and founded as a direct result of the report, has, in its first two years, responded to requests for advice and help from over 500 voluntary organisations as well as creating a whole range of courses, seminars and publications which would otherwise never have come into being.

More importantly, it has helped to make voluntary organisations aware that better management of their activities can be at least as important as more money.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES HANDY,
1 Fairview,
73 Putney Hill, SW15,
November 13.

He was also, I am glad to say, wrong in saying that nothing came of it. The Management Development Unit at NCVO, which was

Taking account of MP's death

From Mr M. W. New
Sir, The Government has now called the by-election in Southgate following the death of the murdered MP, Sir Anthony Berry. The majority at the general election was nearly 16,000 in favour of the Conservative Party and there is every indication that a Conservative will be returned to Parliament.

Is it right, however, for the major opposition parties to put up candidates against the Conservative candidate? If the seat had been marginal and was overturned by another party, would that not be a disastrous tribute to the terrorist bomb?

I am not supporter of the current Conservative Government, but I would find it painful to vote in an opposing candidate who would owe his place to the bomb. I think the major parties should set a special example to terrorist organisations that our democracy is not for abusing or adulterating by the bomb, and let the sitting party's candidate be returned unopposed.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. NEW,
8 Springfield Road,
Wallingford,
Surrey,
November 22.

Irish neutrality

From Mr S. F. Murphy
Sir, Your continuing anxiety over Irish neutrality (leading article, November 19) surprises me. Ireland has no substantial deposits of strategic materials (except peat). The natives clearly have the ability to make the place ungovernable in the event of invasion. The country does not have the military facilities necessary for a major attack upon the United Kingdom; nor could such facilities be constructed in the conditions of modern war unless the UK had already ceased to be hostile.

Taoiseach Fianna Fáil is one of the few international statesmen to have no serious quarrel with anybody. Understandably this fact has aroused the envy of your Thatcherite leader-writers, but their emotion provides no basis for a change in Irish policy.

Yours faithfully,
S. F. MURPHY,
12 Merton Street,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire,
November 19.

From Mrs Janet Barlow
Sir, What an irony, that a work by Christine de Pisan should be seized as indecent (letter, November 20).

That moral lady was a Whitehouse of her day and fought valiantly in the battle against the obscene and depraving *Roman de la Rose*. If people wanted an improving read, she said, they should try a book by her countryman, a man called Dante.

But the Secretary of the NCCL, et al should check their facts. Christine was certainly not a nun. Her daughter, indeed, became one, but Christine's anxious regret, but Christine herself was a happily married woman until her husband died when she was only 25. Her short lyrics of love and grief are very moving.

After his death she supported herself, her children and for a time her two brothers by her pen, a feat of which she was justly proud.

Incidentally, her work has been available in English since 1489. Yours sincerely,
JANET BARLOW,
2a Cotham Lawn Road,
Bristol,
Avon,
November 21.

Peace in the park

From Mr Peter Pitt
Sir, Mr Samuel Carr (November 14) complains that the new pagoda in Battersea Park will be a Buddhist temple. It will not, it is being built, as a gift to London, by a distinguished and dedicated group of Buddhist monks.

The GLC is deeply grateful. London, I am sure, will have equal cause to be. But the pagoda is not to be sectarian or exclusive in any way. It will be dedicated quite simply to peace. I am not aware of any religion whose prayers do not daily rise in that cause.

The Japanese, through whose generosity London will enjoy a very beautiful landmark (which I feel sure Penrhyn, the designer of the park, would have admired and welcomed) are unique in this respect. They have more tragic reasons than the rest of the world to deplore nuclear warfare.

I invite Mr Carr to add his own prayers to theirs and to our own.

Yours,
PETER PITT, Chairman,
Arts and Recreation Committee,
Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
November 16.

Woes that wait on age

From Mr M. O. Carruthers
Sir, Conflicting advice concerning the wisdom or otherwise of purchasing BT shares left me in some confusion as to what to do for the best until, that is, I read the prospectus in your paper of November 20.

Here, under the heading "7. Prospects", I was intrigued to note that "provision for depreciation of obsolete customers' apparatus" is ending. That settled it.

As an OAP I'll hold on to my money.

Yours faithfully,
M. O. CARRUTHERS,
Fisherman's Creek,
Pillory Hill,
Noss Mayo,
Plymouth,
November 23.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why interest rates are still painfully high

On Wednesday, the Treasury committee of MPs will have its traditional opportunity to grill the Chancellor on his autumn statement. After a dry run with his officials this afternoon, it is not an easy time for Mr Nigel Lawson, coming under fire both from those who do not believe his spending sums (and therefore suspect him of covert inflation) and those who believe positive inflation is needed (and therefore are not interested in the small change of his spending equations).

What Mr Lawson himself believes he needs is a wage slowdown coupled with tumbling interest rates, but wages and interest rates have proved uncomfortably sticky. Admittedly, it is now possible to find crumbs of comfort in the wage figures, to the limited extent that they are unlikely to run quite so far ahead of prices over the coming year as they have during the previous three.

And interest rates? Well, we are beginning to see the leaves fall in America, with a four-fifths decline in the economic growth rate between the first and third quarters of this year, and subsequent slight easing of monetary policy. Mr Lawson may be blessed with a further fall in American prime rates before his Wednesday encounter with parliamentary democracy. But rates in America and Britain would still be much where they were a year ago, which means painfully and destructively high.

There are three explanations as to why they have been so hard to bring down, all of which now merit a little more anxious investigation. The first, quite simply, is that reports of the death of the American boom have been much exaggerated. It is only the dramatic transatlantic practice of "annualizing" growth rates between quarters that brings the growth rate down to a substantial 1.9 per cent in July-September: the sober British practice of comparing each quarter's output with its level a year previously would yield a decidedly healthy American growth rate of 6.2 per cent.

That is comforting, but inadequate. For there are plenty of other signs in the nooks and crannies of the American economy that boomtime is drawing to a close. The nub of the question is what this slowdown is doing to the American demand for credit: whether (aided by the Federal Reserve Board) slower growth will trigger a big fall in interest rates or not.

The risk is that the apparent rapidity of the slowdown may actually increase the American appetite for credit. Slower growth automatically increases the government's deficit, which is the second and commonest explanation of stubborn interest rates. The Reagan Administration is already talking of the need to borrow up to another \$40 billion (\$32 billion) this fiscal year. (Admittedly, not all of this can fairly be blamed on lower economic growth; some of it stems from recalculation of the budget in a more realistic post-election light).

Thus it is a race between the increase in government borrowing, against an expected decline in personal and industrial credit demand. But a rapid fall in profits, such as we are seeing in some vulnerable parts of American industry, may merely substitute distress borrowing for a cheerful hunger for investment funds.

This is precisely what we saw in Britain in 1979 (though with the added evil, which America should avoid, of industrial borrowing to finance accelerating wage inflation).

Meanwhile, what about those international debtors' credit hunger? Here the news is much more cheerful. Although there are still some terrible headlines for the International Monetary Fund and international banks among the smaller Latin American countries, Brazil and Mexico are fighting back to financial health much faster than forecast. Morgan Guaranty has just produced a remarkable analysis suggesting that Mexico's trade surplus on both goods and services will this year exceed its interest payments by 32 per cent, despite the summer rise in

rates: in 1982, net trade earnings covered less than two thirds of its interest burden. Brazil's improvement is even more spectacular, from a trade deficit in 1982 to a surplus expected to cover 81 per cent of its interest burden this year.

But, argues Morgan Guaranty, this trade performance is heavily dependent on American growth. And so we come back to the bitter question: whether the trade-off between falling American growth and falling American rates is going to be a favourable one.

It simply ducks this question to the impact of a one percentage point fall in each on Latin America - or anyone else, for that matter. The answer, from Morgan Guaranty and almost everybody else, is that each percentage point in world growth is more valuable to the third world than each percentage point off interest rates, in that it has a greater impact on trade balances and so on the accumulation of international debt.

But the flaws in this approach are obvious. To say that high export growth is preferable to low interest rates is equivalent to allowing debtor countries to work harder to meet the higher cost of servicing their debts. Furthermore, it gives no real answer to the critical question of the effect of one-upon the other: whether a slight slowdown in the hectic pace of American recovery will trigger a substantial fall in interest rates from this year's historically high "real" levels, or whether a substantial fall in growth will not move them much.

The third explanation on offer, enlarged upon with depressing vigour by Mr Roy Batchelor in the *Economic Review* published this morning by the City University Business School, is that high real interest rates are the unavoidable price of success against inflation. Put crudely, his argument is that lower inflation has reduced the desire to save by more than it has reduced the demand for credit, and this is a continuing long-term trend.

Hence - Mr Lawson would argue - the need for governments to do their damndest to reduce that part of the demand for credit which is under their control, while simultaneously attempting to stimulate savings by tax reform. Yet he has not reaped the hoped for reward of low British interest rates.

Mr Lawson can, and does, continue to blame this on President Reagan. But that does not take the argument very far. The most important questions for Mr Lawson this week should focus on the ways he intends to bring domestic interest rates down far enough to stimulate continued, and strengthened, British growth. One way, of course, to break free of America would be to practise genuine indifference to the exchange rate.

Mr Lawson could fairly point out the limits to the approach. First, the temporary danger of taking it while Britain's international reputation is tarnished by the miners' strike. Second, the danger of doing so while oil prices are weakening. These only reinforce the basic limitation, which is that the financial markets would continue to care about the pound even if the Government did not. Therefore, there is a danger that the prospect of indifference to a falling pound would simply force back up the price Britain had to pay for internationally-traded funds.

All of which still makes it possible for Mr Lawson to argue that in happier times American rates will be lower, and the elastic between American and British rates can also be stretched further than it can be today. But are happier times really in prospect, or is the Chancellor indulging in wishful thinking about his freedom to cut interest rates? If he is caught in an exchange-rate trap, the only way to try and scramble out of it is through international co-operation, on the European scale that is at least politically possible. Policy must cope with the world as it is, not as the governments of small and open economies like Britain would wish it to be.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Brief Gatt agenda belies problems

By John Lawless

Representatives of 92 countries sit down in Geneva today for the most important world trade gathering in several years - with only a two-item agenda in front of them.

First for discussion is the appointment of council members to the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), whose members account for 80 per cent of world trade. The second covers "its activities".

That phrase covers the problems which have bedevilled the world economy during recession.

That simplicity of the agenda ensured that the meeting did not dissolve into a furious row before it even began. "Contracting parties", as Gatt members are known, will be free to make generalized statements.

The signals their messages contain, and the reception they

get in total, will undoubtedly determine the future pattern of world trade. If things go well, senior officials acknowledge, the meeting should signify that a new Gatt round is to be held, in 1986 at the earliest, to follow up the Kennedy and Tokyo rounds of the 1960s and 1970s.

At the other extreme, acrimony could see the United States withdrawing its support for Gatt.

AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

Fed fails to fine tune economy

As the economic situation in America has deteriorated, we have been told by virtually all the Wall Street economists whose works comes across my desk that the weakness of the economy since June merely represented a "lull" and that economic growth would, - for some mysterious and largely unexplained reason, resume in 1985.

This was certainly not my view: along with one or two other officials and commentators, I was increasingly concerned that the Federal Reserve's money growth freeze since May would throw the economy into a "stall out".

There was no demand for a major change in Fed policy from the battalions of Wall

Street economists, some were even talking about the dangers of inflation.

In Washington there was less complacency. Mr Donald Regan, Treasury Secretary, had been humiliated by Fed officials earlier this year when his calls for a reversal of the money growth freeze that was then becoming obvious were not only ignored but actually contradicted.

Mr Preston Martin, one of two Fed members appointed by President Reagan, campaigned openly for a major change in Fed policy.

Fed officials were told at the October 2 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, the supreme policy-making body of the Fed, that

they should begin to relax the administration of monetary policy, as long as the strong dollar was on an upward trend.

The result was that in early November, when the dollar fell to DM2.91, the Fed raised the federal funds rate to 9½ per cent, putting a damper on money growth and halting the downward trend of US interest rates.

The "inflation threat" argument has been completely discredited - so has the "lull" theory. What remains is yet another example of the ineptitude of Fed officials in their attempts to "fine tune" the economy.

They will have to increase

Howell leads call for Britain to become full EMS member

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Immediate British membership of the European Monetary System currency union is urged today by a group of politicians, economists and bankers.

The group, led by Mr David Howell, Conservative MP for Guildford and former Energy Secretary, has published a study called *The Time is Ripe*.

The present time seems as favourable as any is likely to be for the United Kingdom to join, the study concludes. The traditional argument against full British membership, that the pound moves in line with changes in oil prices, is rejected on the grounds that "the oil market is expected to be reasonably stable".

Britain is, at present, a partial member of the European Monetary System. When the system came into existence in March 1979, Britain agreed, in common with the other EMS members, the put 20 per cent of her gold and foreign currency reserves into the European

Monetary Cooperation Fund, and to take part in joint intervention to support EMS parities.

The gap between economic policy and performance in Britain and West Germany, the recognized EMS leader, is far less than it was in March 1979, say the authors. Also, EMS entry at present exchange rates would not pose any significant problems for British industry, it is argued.

The members of the study group included Dr David Lomax of National Westminster Bank, Mr Leonard Doves of Lloyds Bank, Professor Geoffrey Maynard of Chase Manhattan Bank, Mr Tad Rybcyzak of Lazard Brothers, Professor Susan Strange of the London School of Economics, Mr John Pinder of the Policy Studies Institute, and Sir Frederick Warner, Conservative MEP for Somerset.

Its recommendations come at a time when there are two main



David Howell: 'Time is ripe to join'

areas of concern on the pound's stability.

Oil prices on the spot market are now \$1.50 below the official North Sea price of \$28.65 a barrel. A 75 per cent drop in spot North Sea prices last week was accompanied by a 4 per cent fall in the pound's value against the dollar.

The second source of instability arises out of the performance of the dollar. The dollar has now shrugged off the weakness experienced around the time of the election. Last week it rose above three marks for the first time since President Reagan's re-election.

Many forecasters think that the dollar has now entered its final bout of strength before a sharp fall during 1985. The stockbroking firm of James Capel, in its international bond and currency review published today, predicts that the dollar will end this year at DM3.08-3.12, and at about \$1.20 against the pound, before dropping to DM2.75-2.80 and \$1.30-1.35 during 1985.

The EMS's recent period of stability - it has been 20 months since the last realignment of parities - has coincided with dollar strength. Some observers fear that a sharp dollar fall will lead to uneven pressure on EMS currencies and create instabilities.

Optimism at CBI

The Confederation of British Industry is optimistic about economic prospects for next year, although reports from some regions suggest that the recovery is losing pace.

The CBI expects the economy to grow by 3.25 per cent in 1985, after 2.5 per cent in 1984. Manufacturing investment is expected to be up by 15 per cent, after a 13.25 per cent increase this year.

There has been an improvement in order books, with last month's export orders back to their March position, which was the best since December 1978.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Friday's close and change on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 1158.9 down 14.7
FT Index: 910.3 down 9.7
FT All Share: 548.62 up 5.21
Bargains: 21,880 up 24.82
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 104.63 down 0.81
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1220.30 up 32.38
Tokyo closed
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1098.04 up 24.25
Amsterdam: 175.8 up 1.5
Sydney: AO Index: 770.1 down 12.4
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1085.6 up 7.4

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Chamberlain Phipps, Dunhill Holdings, Erskine House, Property Partnership, Sarasota Technology, Sterling Guaranty Trust and Volex Group. Final: H Fennell and Radio City (Sound of Merseyside).

TOMORROW - Interims: Allied-Lyons, Beecham Group, Century Oils Group, Channel Tunnel Investments, CML Microsystems, Courtauld, De Beers Consolidated Mines, The Investment Company, Parkland Textiles, Rothmans International and TR Property Investment Trust. Final: John Carr, ICL and Scottish and Mercantile Investment.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: BPB Industries, Brickhouse Dudley, Cable and Wireless, Carless Capel & Leonard, Evans of Leeds, Henderson, Administration, International Thomson Organisation (third quarter), H & G Second Dual Trust, Monks Investment Trust, Mountview Estates and Steinberg Group. Final: Cronite Group and WEPC.

THURSDAY - Interims: Basset Foods, Celsion Industries, Dawson International, Deim Group, Habitat, Mothercare, Hargreaves Group, Humphries Holdings, Radland, Scapa Group, 800 Group and Trifus. Final: Thomas Borthwick & Sons, Morland and Company, Royal Bank of Scotland Group and United Wire Group.

FRIDAY - Interims: Castings, Freshbake Foods Group, Arthur Henriques, and Highgate & Job Group. Final: Tyne Tees Television.

Banks 'should issue own notes'

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Banks and building societies should be allowed to issue their own notes and the Bank of England's powers over the banking system curtailed, according to the Adam Smith Institute, the right-wing research group.

In a memorandum to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, the institute urges a fundamental rethink of banking policy. It says that Britain is getting a bad deal from its highly concentrated banking system, that tight regulation has led to reduced competition, worse service and less choice and that the time is ripe for "radical review of the

regime within which British banks have to operate."

The institute, which usually advocates laissez-faire free-market policies, holds up Scottish banking in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as a shining example. Free for all but minimal restrictions and isolated from the activities of any central bank, it was the engine behind Scotland's remarkable growth during that period, the institute claims.

It would like the Government to work towards promoting such a system, which it says brought monetary stability and

economic growth. The institute argues that the Bank of England in its privileged position has periodically been guilty in history of seriously overvaluing its notes and causing recurrent bouts of inflation while private enterprise banks cannot escape the consequences of such irresponsibility.

A first step could be allowing Scottish banks to issue their own notes and preventing the Bank of England from doing so.

The institute also advocates removing barriers to entry to the banking system and restrictions on forming new banks.

Nuclear Fuels set for privatization

By David Walker

Pressure on the Government for a statement on the future of British Nuclear Fuels is likely to grow after a disclosure from the company that obstacles to its privatization have been overcome.

Mr Con Alliday, BNFL's chief executive, said at the weekend that the Department of Energy was no longer insisting on guarantees in raising loan capital.

The need for loan guarantees had been a stumbling block to BNFL's privatization, with the

question paying for the clear-up and disposal of nuclear waste deposited at Sellafield before 1971, when BNFL was formed. The Government can, under the original legislation which hived off BNFL from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, dispose of up to 49 per cent of its ownership.

A spokesman for the company yesterday said that privatization was a decision for the Government, as the sole shareholder and the regulatory authority for BNFL.

The spokesman said that financial responsibility for disposing of radioactive wastes was "now settled in principle". The bulk of the expense, which he estimated in millions, would be borne by the Ministry of Defence and the UKAEA.

Most of the waste had been generated by the British atomic weapons production programme and by the UKAEA acting as an agent for the Central Electricity Generating Board, he said.

Turnover up by £165.3m to £852.8m (24%)
Pre-tax profit up by £4.8m to £17.1m (39.5%)
Earnings per share up 41.5% - Dividend up 28.6%

INTERIM RESULTS

(unaudited)

	28 weeks to 10/11/84 £'000	28 weeks to 12/11/83 £'000 restated	52 weeks to 28/4/84 £'000
Turnover (excluding VAT)	852,772	687,500	1,387,023
Trading profit	18,882	13,904	31,066
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	17,074	12,238	28,306
Profit on ordinary activities after tax	13,924	9,445	24,046
Profit for the period	13,816	9,261	21,720
Dividend	2.25p	1.75p	4.75p
Earnings per share	5.8p	4.1p	10.375p



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[illegible]

1,399,000	Branning	142	+	9.4	22.8	7.2
252,000	Brannan	179	+	10.0	10.0	10.0
2,988,000	Bravo	139	+	10.0	10.0	10.0
200,000	Bravo	200	+	12	6.3	1.4
92,000	Bravo	536	+	5	6.3	1.3
12,000	Causton (S-J)	72	+	11	5.0	5.0
5,240,000	Causton (S-J)	80	+	11	5.0	5.0
8,075,000	Chapman	91	+	11	5.0	5.0
4,000,000	Chapman (Jennings)	115	+	11	5.0	5.0
123,000	Chapman	147	+	11	5.0	5.0
4,960,000	E Lancia Pro	91	-	3	6.0	5.5
10,400	Eschscholtz Pulp	446	+	7.0	1.0	1.0
10,400	Eschscholtz Pulp	446	+	7.0	1.0	1.0
15,700	Great Relations	241	-	4.1	2.0	2.0
98,500	Great Relations	138	+	7.3	8.0	8.0
10,000	Hayes O'Connell	138	+	7.3	8.0	8.0
125,700	McQuay-S. Mather	128	+	12	12	12

67.5m	Smurfit (Jeff)	142	0	-1	13.1	8.2
4,382,000	Usher Wedlake	205		-10	8.4	4.1
2,075,000	Wace	31		-1		
45.5m	Waddington (J)	50		-35	22.9	4.4
22.8m	Walmough	253		+5	7.8	8.7

[illegible][illegible]

SHIPPING					
71 gm	Amson Ex Ports	177	-14	12.1	8.9
381.7m	Dr Communications	203	-2	5.2	2.8
163.7m	Amson Ex Ports	177	-14	12.1	8.9
262.6m	Fisher Jangles	116	-2	4.4	2.8
163.7m	Amson Ex Ports	177	-14	12.1	8.9
7,751.0m	Hunting Station	92	-3	8.8	5.2
15.5m	Jacobs L	50	4	4.8	3.9
2,926.0m	Lyle	26	-3	4.4	2.8
900.0m	Henry Dodge	29	-1	1.9	1.1
126.8m	Omni Transport	121	-6	6.6	3.2
1,476.0m	Amson Ex Ports	177	-14	12.1	8.9
448.0m	Remson Steel	11	-3	3.1	2.1
7,992.0m	Remson (Heller)	15	-3	17.4	9.8
	Turnout Steel	200			

SHOES AND LEATHER					
5,092.0m	RI	203	+10	6.2	4.8
14.7m	Cammar Steel	161	+1	11.1	8.9
1,600.0m	Amson Ex Ports	177	-14	12.1	8.9
1,600.0m	Remson Howerth	100	-2	7.2	5.2
1,600.0m	Remson Howerth	100	-2	7.2	5.2
6,000.0m	Stating & Bonan	129	-1	6.5	4.8
21.3m	Pitt	146	-1	6.5	4.8
21.3m	Henry	143	-2	2.2	1.0

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Corrected dividend d Ex interest bearing f Price at maturity g Dividend and stock price h Special payment i Bid and ask j Bid-ask k Pre-market figures l Forecast earnings m Earnings distribution n Ex rights o Ex split or share split p Free y Price adjusted for late dealings No significant data.

GILT-EDGED MARKET

Trend reversal likely after BT share offer

R. L. Thomas

The decline in institutional liquidity in the last couple of months and the forthcoming British Telecom offer for sale have weakened the technical position in the gilt-edged market. Indeed, some of the selling of index-linked gilt-edged stocks in the past two weeks may have been induced by the need for liquidity to apply for British Telecom. This weakening is now ending and looks likely to be reversed.

During the third quarter of the year, the liquidity of life offices and pension funds fluctuated between 4 per cent and 4½ per cent of total assets, compared with a normal minimum of about 3 per cent. Institutional liquidity, following heavy purchases of gilt-edged stock in October and early November, is estimated to have declined to about 3½ per cent, only £1,000 million above a normal minimum.

The prospective tightness of liquidity has already been offset by much reduced buying and the receipt of large gilt-edged dividends of £800 million last week.

Some 47 per cent of the British Telecom issue has been reserved for the main financial institutions who have agreed to underwrite the issue. These priority applications, however, will give institutions a BT weighting in their British equity portfolios of only just over one-third of its 4½ per cent weighting in the FT-Actuaries all-share index. So many institutions will apply for further shares.

If there is no reduction in the 415 million shares provisionally allocated for the proposed separate offerings in the US, Canada and Japan, and if BT staff take up their 300 million share allocation in full, fewer than 900 million shares will be generally available in Britain.

These will require initial subscriptions of £450 million. Even if institutions acquired all these shares, BT's weighting in their portfolios would still average less than two-thirds of its weight in the FT-Actuaries all share index, because the index includes the Government's holding of 49.8 per cent in BT.

The institutions may not, however, acquire many of the generally available shares. The

issue seems to have had an unusual impact on the relatively small private investor who may well successfully subscribe for most of the unallocated shares and not wish to sell much stock acquired at all quickly.

So there is a very strong possibility that the institutions will not be able to acquire more than a fraction of the BT stock they would like. Many of the funds they have earmarked for BT will be available for investment elsewhere.

One of the largest subscriptions in recent years was the STC issue in October 1982, when applications amounted to almost £2.75 billion compared with shares on offer of only £210 million. Cheques for £2.5 billion were presented and, as the issue spanned a mid-month banking make-up, it was possible to estimate that fully £1.75 billion came from bank overdrafts.

Estimates of BT's oversubscription continue to rise and it is conceivable that subscriptions for the freely available shares could exceed £5 billion. The returned cheques from the offer will be sent out on December 6, almost a week before the banking make-up on December 12, but not all the cheques will have been cleared. So there may be some small effect on the mid-December money supply figures.

Fears that short-term interest rates may rise, at least temporarily, over the issue are exaggerated. Not only will the shortage be spread over a week but there are many ways that it can be relieved by the Bank of England.

After the completion of the BT issue, liquidity which is no longer needed to finance applications will be available for the market: £400 million of this will be accounted for by the call on 9½ per cent Exchequer 1998, the current tap, which is now virtually exhausted. However, the empty calendar for calls outstanding on new issues until mid-January combined with the immediate outlook for continuing weakness in US interest rates, should underpin the gilt-edged market for the rest of this year.

The author is economics partner at W Greenwell & Co.

ORDINARY SHARES

New dawn for the composites

Brian Cordrey

Clients of Savory Mills have been well aware for years of our bullish views on the outlook for composite insurance companies. We have seen the issue as a simple one: of an imbalance between the supply and demand for non-life insurance. Following the financial crisis in 1974, the big British composites rapidly rebuilt their balance sheets by raising substantial sums of capital on the Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, with high levels of inflation the companies were unable to finance their premium growth from retained earnings and at the same time operate on their traditionally high solvency margins. Investors were faced with a seemingly endless series of rights issues despite the fact that in comparison with their US counterparts their balance sheets were strong.

The period of very poor share price performance was brought to an end by the Allianz dawn raid for Eagle Star. Overnight, managements were faced with a new discipline. With rising stockmarkets, overcapacity had become memory. But excess capacity remained worldwide with high interest rates attracting new players. Profits had to fall until capacity was sufficiently reduced to bring about equilibrium. This process is now completed in such a way that minimal returns, if any, are now being produced by many companies.

For the first time in years, we can see the conditions are in

place for the beginning next year of a number of years of large earnings recovery. Insurance premium rates have been rising in the largest market, the United States, for some while during 1984 and the momentum is accelerating. It takes time for improved profits to flow through as premiums are earned from the higher rates applied throughout companies' portfolios as policies are renewed.

Professional investors have rightly become sceptical of optimistic earnings forecasts. A mood of realism now prevails and this is a solid basis for us to be confident that the sector will now prove more rewarding to the investor.

We expect the sector to show a strong performance over the year-end and early 1985 as investors anticipate the long-

awaited recovery. Further, next year may well see the US institutions investing in force when they appreciate the relative attraction of the companies compared with their US counterparts.

Commercial Union may prove to be one of the better investments in the stock market in 1985. We believe that the major technical reserving exercise carried out by CU which has so depressed earnings is probably largely complete. With an asset backing of approaching £4 a share, the current share price is on a 58 per cent discount.

The solvency margin is higher now than it was at the peak of the 1972 bull market and compares very favourably with the typical large US property casualty insurance company. While a maintained

dividend cannot be guaranteed and will most likely remain uncovered next year, it will be approximately covered by life earnings and comfortably covered by life profits and investment income generated from shareholders' funds.

In other words, the reason for cutting the dividend would have to be based on an expectation that no financial return at all was in prospect on the group's non-life operations.

Reading through Savory's Insurance Annuals (which date back to 1919 and provide a unique record of British quoted insurance companies' results), it is interesting to see that we have to go back to the years of the great depression to read of dividend cuts by the composites. Unless investment values fall very significantly we do not see why CU or any of the other composites should follow an excellent dividend record with a cut.

For the more cautious, General Accident, which is also heavily involved in the US market, should show important gains and the shares should prove an attractive investment. The potential investor should be aware that the price of shares and dividends paid to shareholders may fall as well as rise. It is important that anyone wishing to invest should consult a professional adviser first.

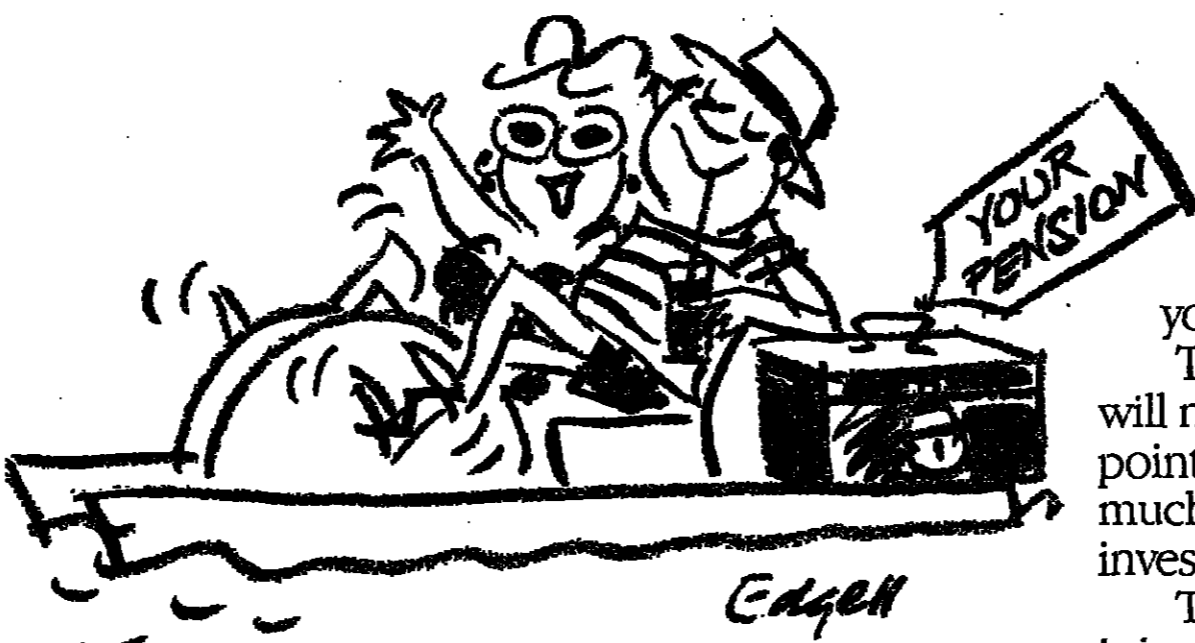
The author is the partner responsible for insurance at E B Savory Mills & Co.

PRETAX PROFITS (£m)

	1982	1983	1984(E)	1985(E)	1986(E)
Commercial Union	21.5	9.3	-46	53	190
General Accident	44.5	85.5	19	72	150
Guardian Royal Exchange	105.2	122.1	117	134	175
Royal Insurance	96.5	98.4	29	72	210
Sun Alliance	55.3	73.4	47	82	140
TOTAL	325.5	368.8	166	413	885

*Including Phoenix from August, 1984

Will the Government's new 'portable' pensions proposals affect your standard of living when you retire?



It all depends - on a number of things, including how much you're prepared to contribute towards your pension.

So what, broadly speaking, is the Government proposing?

The main proposals

You will no longer be compelled to belong to your employer's pension scheme. Instead, you'll be able to take out your own pension scheme and move it with you from job to job. What has become known as a 'portable' pension which is personal to you.

Of course, you may decide to leave things as they are and stay inside your employer's scheme. And, to be frank, we think most people are going to, because a good occupational scheme will still be the best solution for the majority of employees.

And some drawbacks

If, nevertheless, you opt for a 'portable' pension, your employer won't have to go on contributing directly towards it. Since his

contributions to an occupational scheme are usually quite a bit more than yours, this is quite a drawback.

The final level of your 'portable' pension will not depend on how much you earn at the point of retirement. It will be based on how much you have paid into it and how well it is invested.

There will be no built-in life cover as there is in most occupational schemes at present. You will have to stump up extra.

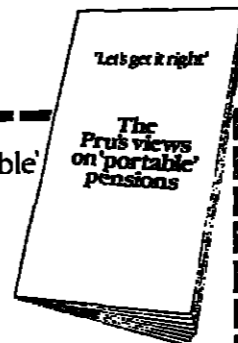
The Prudential's booklet explains

The Pru is convinced that as many people as possible should become aware of the changes in store. Now, before it's too late. That's why we've published a free booklet which explains what the Government has in mind, and expresses our views, too.

For instance, the Pru believes that the present pensions structure could be adjusted to allow a considerable degree of 'portability'. The Government, on the other hand, proposes a radical re-shaping which we are certain would create needless extra costs.

Get a copy of "The Pru's views on 'portable' pensions" and you'll see what we mean. As the largest life and pensions firm in the UK we can fairly claim to be both realistic and objective. Once you've read the booklet, think it over - and then have your say.

After all, it's your pension we're talking about!



For your free copy of "The Pru's views on 'portable' pensions", telephone: Teledata 01-200 0200, or write to Prudential (GP), Freepost, London EC1B 1PD. Please be clear - this is a booklet for your information. There will be no follow up by the Prudential.

Name _____
Address _____

PRUDENTIAL

Your pension. Let's get it right.

NATIONAL Girobank

National Girobank announces that with effect from 23rd November 1984

Base Rate

Its base rate was reduced from 10% to 9½%

Deposit Accounts

The rate of interest payable on deposit accounts is 7% per annum

10 Milk Street LONDON EC2V 8JH

GULF OIL CORPORATION SELLS PRINCIPAL TRADING BUSINESS TO GTOCO N.V.

Gulf Oil Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevron Corporation, announces the sale of the principal trading business of Gulf Oil Trading Company to GTOCO N.V. The sale includes crude oil and refined product trading contracts and related operations, supply contracts other than those related to the Gulf system, and foreign nonmarine lubricant activities. GTOCO N.V. is completely independent of Gulf Oil and Chevron.

A newly organized International Trading and Marine Division, headed by Thom P. Garrett, is responsible for the operation of the portions of Gulf's trading operation not included in the sale - notably oil trading in support of Gulf's worldwide production, refining and marketing operations, West African trading activities, and sales of marine fuels and lubricants.

This new Division, with more than 200 experienced employees, has U.S. offices in Houston, New York City and New Orleans; and foreign offices including London, Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Hamilton, Bermuda; Hong Kong; Mexico City; Ireland; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Balboa, Panama. Gulf marine fuels and lubricants are available in more than 250 ports.



Gulf Oil Corporation

USM REVIEW

Fears over membership costs

The USM is in danger of becoming too expensive. Mr Brian Winterlood, one of the junior market's most active supporters, is among those who are watching with some concern the increasing cost of its membership.

Price of a share quote can, of course, vary enormously. At one extreme is the massive British Telecom flotation which is costing £200 million. At the other, is the mere £3,000 each it costs to join the USM.

But for run-of-the-mill floatations the gap between a full listing and USM has narrowed dramatically since the second

string market was born four years ago.

The cost of a USM launch nowadays is between £300,000 and £400,000. Access Satellite International, last week's controversial newcomer, which came to market via a reverse takeover, paid £340,000 for the privilege.

Mr Winterlood, a partner in Bisgood Bishop & Co., the jobbers, believes the escalating price of a USM presence could deter some companies from coming to the market or tempt them on to the fringe over-the-counter markets which, through the Business Expansion Scheme, have already syphoned off many potential USM recruits.

Any quoted company, fully listed or USM, does not qualify, thanks to some quirk of

Government thinking, for the BES tax benefits. But an over the counter stock collects these perks.

Mr Winterlood believes the cost gap between a full or USM listing has already narrowed considerably. "The cost of a USM could kill the goose which is laying the golden egg", he said.

Professional fees, charged by accountants and solicitors, represent the main element of the USM cost structure. There is possibly a danger that these fees have outstripped the original, greenfield or infant business concept which encouraged the birth of the market.

Like other USM supporters, Mr Winterlood is pleased with the market's progress in its first four years' existence. But if the

USM had not been excluded from the BES it "would have had new issues coming out of its ears".

Eventually he believes the USM and over-the-counter markets will be drawn much more closely together. Indeed, he sees a three-tier market evolving with fully listed, USM and over-the-counter stocks making up the three layers.

But if the USM does grow closer to the over-the-counter market, Mr Winterlood wonders just how many of the licensed dealers now operating in the fringe markets would have the muscle to survive in direct competition with stock exchange members.

Derek Pain

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Capitalisation	Company	Price	Chgs	Gross Div	Div Yld	P/E
£		last	on	on	on	
		Friday	week	week	week	
7,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
6,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
5,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
4,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
3,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
2,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
1,000,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
500,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
250,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
125,000	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
62,500	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
31,250	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
15,625	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
7,812	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
3,906	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
1,953	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
976	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
488	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
244	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
122	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
61	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
30	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
15	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
7	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
3	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
1	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
0.5	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
0.25	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
0.125	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
0.0625	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
0.03125	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
0.015625	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
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0.001953125	Admiral	120	0	1.5	1.5	10.0
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IAAF reject plan to alter Olympic timetable for benefit of television

By Pat Butcher

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has rejected a plan, criticised by Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic 1,500 metres champion, to change the 1988 Olympic timetable, to fit in with United States television prime time requirements.

The Seoul Olympic Organising Committee for the 1988 Games, wants to maximise its sale of television rights to American networks, which demanded that some of the more "glamorous" athletics, swimming and gymnastics events be moved to the morning, so that with a 14-hour time difference, they could be broadcast to the United States in the early evening.

The sums offered for coverage with such changes have been reported as high as \$750 million, with around \$200 million for coverage with the alterations.

Coe was addressing an Olympic media symposium in Lausanne yesterday when news of the IAAF's decision came through from its council meeting in Canberra. He said he felt that the people who organize timetables already failed to take athletics' wishes into consideration. He referred to the marathons run "in burning heat" in Los Angeles this summer.

But the IAAF had evidently already listened to similar advice from its constituent members, and the International Olympic Committee can do little but abide by the IAAF decision, which president Dr Primo Nebiolo said he would soon give in greater detail to Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president. "I don't believe the IOC will try to change the decision," said Dr Nebiolo.

The IAAF council also announced the expected ban on the taking of Marti Vainio, the Finn who was originally placed second in the Olympic 10,000 metres, and Anna Verbitskaya, the Greek European javelin champion.

Two other Greeks, Cleanthis Ierostatis and Dimitris Deliziotis, and an American, Al Shadenium, were also banned, all ostensibly for life, but Dr Nebiolo indicated that the provision for a successful appeal and the reduction of the sentences to 18 months, was likely to be accepted by the IAAF.

Hutchings reveals his powers

By Pat Butcher

When Tim Hutchings came bursting out of the pack after less than a mile in the Gateshead international cross-country race on Saturday, it was like Clark Kent's alter ego zooming out of a suburban phone booth, with plans to clean up the world. Back in civilian clothes, Hutchings was as quiet and unassuming as ever, but he had certainly cleaned up, if not all of it, then an important part of the cross-country world.

He easily beat all but a couple of domestic rivals who were absent, to his claim to be Britain's best cross-country runner and also left way behind some of the strongest

members of a Kenyan team which has beaten England easily in the last two world championships. So did his English A team colleagues, David Lewis and Julian Goster, who finished second and third on Saturday.

Hutchings had been boxed in during the initial charge but his surge clear when everyone was getting their second wind was also helped by a 2,000 metres track race on Thursday evening, while visiting his first friend in Northern Ireland.

"I can run a mile there in 4min 11sec, so I knew it would take 4:40 here feel like strolling," he said afterwards. The rest of the "stroll"

was threatened briefly during the second of the four laps, when Lewis made a determined effort, and came within 20 metres of Hutchings, but the gap at the end was up to 100 metres.

Hutchings tried to excuse the opposition on the grounds that it is still the start of winter preparation, and the Kenyans were suffering from jet-lag, having turned up on Friday instead of Wednesday.

Julius Kariuki, seventh in the Olympic steeplechase, was the best of the Kenyans in fourth place, but Paul Kipkoech, 18th in the 3,000 metres in Los Angeles, just behind Hutchings, could only finish 24th, with Joseph Cheshire, fourth in the Olympic 1,500 metres, three places behind.

After two races in France in the next fortnight, Hutchings defends the IAC title on December 15, which, like Gateshead, he also won last year. He plans to spend 12 weeks with relatives in New Zealand from mid-January as his warm weather training, which would mean missing the English national cross-country, and probably the world championships in Lisbon in mid-March.

RESULTS: English men's standard: 1, T Hutchings, 24min 42sec; 2, D Lewis, 25:01; 3, J Goster, 25:15; 4, J Kariuki (Kenya), 25:21; 5, J Kariuki, 25:25; 6, A Williams (Wales), 25:28; 7, J Kariuki, 25:30; 8, J Kariuki, 25:35; 9, J Kariuki, 25:40; 10, J Kariuki, 25:45; 11, J Kariuki, 25:50; 12, J Kariuki, 25:55; 13, J Kariuki, 26:00; 14, J Kariuki, 26:05; 15, J Kariuki, 26:10; 16, J Kariuki, 26:15; 17, J Kariuki, 26:20; 18, J Kariuki, 26:25; 19, J Kariuki, 26:30; 20, J Kariuki, 26:35; 21, J Kariuki, 26:40; 22, J Kariuki, 26:45; 23, J Kariuki, 26:50; 24, J Kariuki, 26:55; 25, J Kariuki, 27:00; 26, J Kariuki, 27:05; 27, J Kariuki, 27:10; 28, J Kariuki, 27:15; 29, J Kariuki, 27:20; 30, J Kariuki, 27:25; 31, J Kariuki, 27:30; 32, J Kariuki, 27:35; 33, J Kariuki, 27:40; 34, J Kariuki, 27:45; 35, J Kariuki, 27:50; 36, J Kariuki, 27:55; 37, J Kariuki, 28:00; 38, J Kariuki, 28:05; 39, J Kariuki, 28:10; 40, J Kariuki, 28:15; 41, J Kariuki, 28:20; 42, J Kariuki, 28:25; 43, J Kariuki, 28:30; 44, J Kariuki, 28:35; 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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Dayalle

A. D. 575: and 15

Radio 2
Medium wave. † denotes also VHF
on the hour. Headlines 5.30am,
7.30 and 8.30. 4.00pm Coin
† 4.30 Ray Moore † including 6.15
for Thought. 7.50 Terry Wogan †
including 8.31 Racing; 8.45 Pause for
Light. 10.00 Russell Harty † 12.00pm
Jones † including 1.05 Sports
2.00 Gloria Hunniford † including

5:00 Sports Desk, 5:30 Music; 6:00 David Hamilton's
ing 6:02, 6:05 Sports Desk, 6:00
Dunn's 6:02, 6:02 Sports Desk;
Sport and Classified Results (mf
6:00 Alan Dell, 6:00 Humphrey
with the Best of Jazz, 6:55
s Desk, 10:00 Don't Stop Now -
ndation, Comedy cabaret with Joe
hs, 10:30 Star Sound with Nick

Radio 1

on the half hour from 6.30am until 7.00am and at 12 midnight. 6.00am
on John. 7.00 Mike Read. 8.00
on Bates chats with Paul McCartney
at the making of his film "Give My
ards to Broad Street". 12.00pm
Davies including 12.30 Newsbeat.
Steve Wright. 5.10am Bruce Springsteen

WORLD SERVICE

Four Hours, 7.30 Sarah and Company:
World News, 8.00 Reflections, 8.15
The Eighty-Four, 8.30 Anything Goes.
World News, 9.00 Review of the British
9.15 Wireguide, 9.20 Good Books, 9.40
Ahead, 9.45 Peebles' Choice, 10.00
Summary, 10.01 Science in Action, 10.30
Now, 11.00 World News, 11.09 News
Britain, 11.15 Gemini to Jo Burg, 12.00
Musical, 12.35, 12.40 & 12.45, 12.45

Newsweek. 12.45 US84 A. 12.45
 Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.05
 Four Hours. 1.30 Hollywood's Oscar
 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Not So Much A
 3.00 Radio Newswest. 3.15 A Word in
 3.45 Music in The Age of Chivalry.
 World's News. 4.00 Commentary. 4.15
 Soul Music. 4.30 Images of Britain. 4.45
 World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Book
 5.15 My Music. 5.00 World News. 5.15
 5.30. 5.30. 5.30. 5.30. 5.30. 5.30. 5.30. 5.30.

10.09 News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.05
 Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40
 Stations. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00
 News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Sweet
 Music. 11.30 Just A Minute. 12.00 World
 News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio
 4. 12.30 Sarah And Company. 1.00
 Summary. 1.01 Outlook. 1.30 Short
 Stories. 1.45 Roots And Branches. 2.00 World

(All times in GMT)

247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4:
458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World

As London except: 1.20pm News. 1.30-3.30 Film: Iron
rears (Virginia Mayo). 5.15-5.45
busters. 8.00-7.00 News. 10.30
r Parrett. 11.00 Streets of San
cisco. 12.00 Closedown.

WALLS 6.00pm-7.00 Wales
x. 10.30-11.00 Exploration &
venture.

OTTISH As London except:
1.20pm News. 1.30
on Line. 1.35 Film: Town on Trial*
n Mills). 3.20 Canadian

WILTSHIRE As London except:

ANNEL: As London except: 1.20

pm News 1.30
 2.00-4.00 Film: Melody
 Channel report 6.30-7.00 Gardens
 11.55 Closedown

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BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER by
Steven Lowe. Evns 7.30.

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Thursday, Dec 27 at 3.0.

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AMANDA ROBERT

BARRIE FLEMING
CHRISTOPHER GUDWIN
LYNDA BERNARD
BELLINGHAM HOLLEY

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BARBARA HURRAY
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TWO INTO ONE

Nominated
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BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR
 NEW YORK TONY AWARD
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 TWELVE WEEKS ONLY
 ENGLAND LUCY
 PENNINGTON GUTTERIDGE
 in the 3rd year of TOM STOPPARD'S
THE REAL THING

"I BELIEVE THAT THE REAL MINING WILL COME TO BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENT PLACES OF THIS CENTURY" J. Peter, S. Thomas
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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 9QJ
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST To night, Tuesday, Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30
... .. The Theatre Kennedy
... ..

also on page 26

Thatcher stand assailed by SDLP

From Richard Ford Belfast

The Prime Minister was criticised for dismissing the options of the New Ireland Forum by a leading nationalist politician and a Roman Catholic bishop at the weekend as unionists praised her for foiling a Civil Service "plot" to remove Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom.

The anger of nationalists directed against Mrs Margaret Thatcher is causing concern among British officials, who are pessimistic about the chances of breaking the political deadlock in Northern Ireland.

As attempts were still being made to defuse the Anglo-Irish rift, the Prime Minister and her Secretary of State, Mr Douglas Hurd's downgrading of the issue of nationalist alienation in the north was dismissed by Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and Dr Cahal Daly, Bishop of Down and Connor.

Mr Hume said the Prime Minister's curt dismissal of the options was "as real a violence to the political process as the bombs and bullets of the paramilitaries and that her behaviour was a deliberate stroke to cut the ground from under the Forum parties."

She could not say that the representatives of three-quarters of the people of Ireland must cooperate with Britain in seeking a solution and at the same time tell them that their hopes and aspirations for the future were "out, out, out," Mr Hume said.

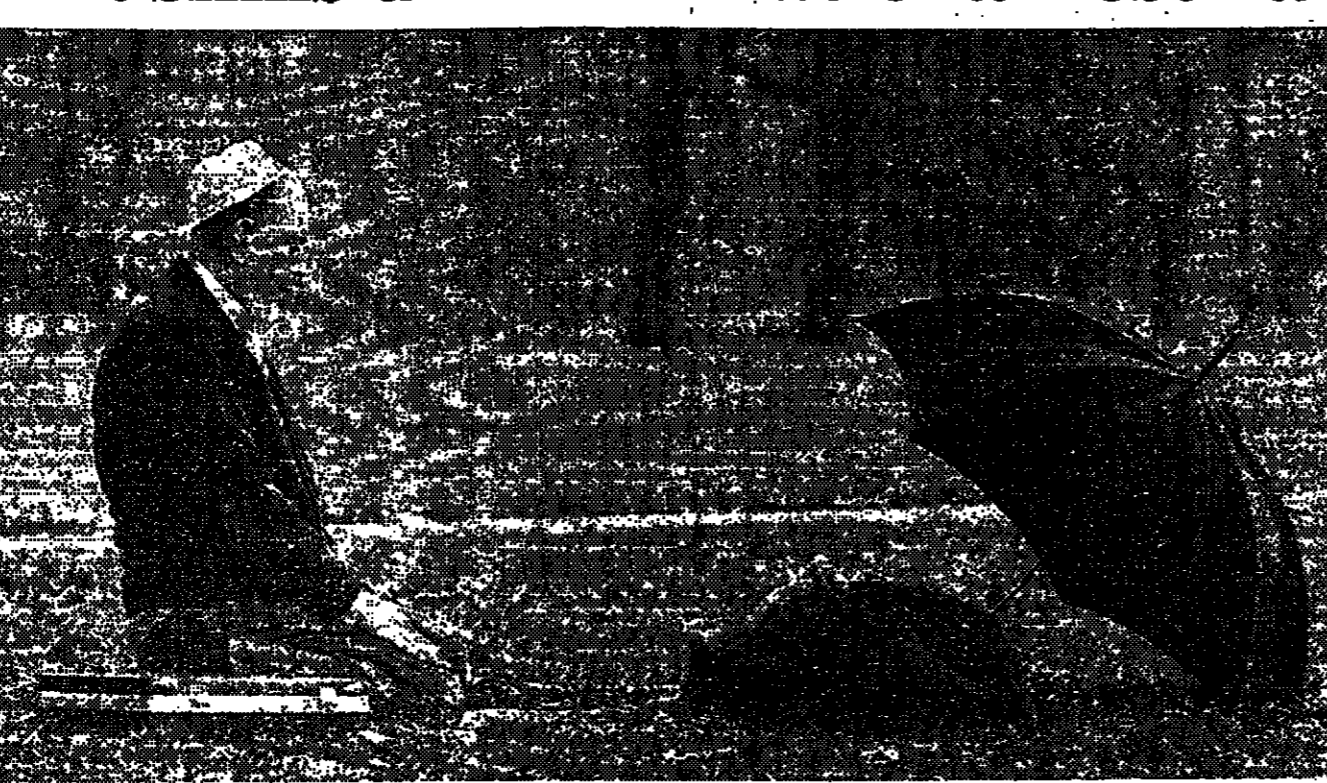
Dr Daly rebutted assertions made by the Prime Minister in the course of an 18-page analysis of the Northern Ireland issue which he said was "deteriorating dangerously." Speaking in London he said the summit had been "a humiliating setback for nationalism."

Escapers still on run

Eighteen prisoners who escaped in the mass jail break at the Maze Prison in September 1983 are still on the run as prisoners recaptured shortly after the escape prepare for trial on 45 charges.

Security forces in the republic have detained only one prisoner since the escape of 38 men and the Royal Ulster Constabulary has made no arrests other than four men held in the province within a week of the escape.

Muslims unite for national festival



A Muslim facing Mecca, Islam's holiest city, prays at the Hyde Park festival. Below: A priest addressing the contingents from all ethnic backgrounds and (right) a devotee in deep meditation (Photographer: Brian Harris).



From all over England about five thousand Muslims converged on Hyde Park in London for noon prayers yesterday, the first national celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday (our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes).

In the mud and fallen leaves of late November, they knelt their prayer mats and laid towards Mecca, which was on this occasion somewhere the other side of a line of damp London policemen.

Chanting in Arabic, the Islamic official language, "God is great," Muhammad is his prophet and "There is no god but Allah," the assembly moved off to parade through the streets of London to Jubilee Gardens, on the South Bank.

British Muslim communities have held local celebrations of the Prophet's birthday for the past decade, usually each group of a particular national origin keeping to itself. This was the first attempt to organize a national festival, bringing together all ethnic and national groupings.

The chairman of the organizing committee, Mr Sayed Sayedain, said "We hope this event will help to emphasize our Britishness. We wish to be fully accepted by everyone here."

The crowd was slightly smaller than anticipated, probably because of the rain, but entirely cheerful, and the police reported no untoward incident.

Each contingent carried aloft its own collection of banners and flags bearing Islamic prayers and holy quotations from the Koran. The leading banner proclaimed that Islam

New rules sought to oust Scargill

Continued from page 1

after a noose was hung from NUM offices opposite his Wrexham flat.

Mr McKay said: "I will not stand for any more intimidation. I can make a plea to all decent-minded people in Britain to stand up and stop the evil that is happening."

"People cannot be terrorized in their own homes, not by the NUM, because this isn't the NUM, this is Scargillism."

Lancashire miners had occupied the offices last week, but they moved out on Saturday and the building is now in the hands of local strikers.

In Scotland five people, three miners and two miners' wives, are due to appear in court today in what is expected to be the first in a series of court cases linked to attacks on working miners and their homes.

Central Scotland police said the charges arose from an incident at a working miner's house in Alloa in which a brick was thrown through a window and a woman slightly hurt.

Three striking miners have also been arrested after an attack in which a working miner was slightly hurt in Tillingmire near by.

Mr Scargill, in a BBC radio interview, denied that the NUM was organizing violence, and said that no-one in the union would subscribe to attacks on people's houses.

"I will not subscribe in any way to condemning miners who are demonstrating on picket lines for their right to work. That is their only crime," he added.

Mr Spencer and Mr Fletcher had met in the same National Coal Board van taking them home from work from collieries a mile apart in West Yorkshire earlier in the week. Both said that they intended to return to work as soon as possible.

A get-well card to Mr Fletcher, signed by a striking miner, said: "All the best to a very brave man who deserves a medal and all the miners' thanks. The rest of us are too scared but you have shown the way. From another miner on strike but not as brave as you."

Mr Chris Butcher, the NUM back-to-work campaigner nicknamed "Silver Bird," said yesterday that the union's militants were using "IRA tactics" in their attempts to intimidate working miners.

"People are terrified. They are absolutely terrified because we have never seen anything like this before in this country."

Labour delegation gets the treatment

Mr Neil Kinnock stood at the window of the Hermitage and gazed out at Palace Square, the cradle of the Revolution and the scene of many stirring historical events. Was he perhaps thinking of October 1917, when the Red Guards and the proletariat of Petrograd swept across the square and stormed the Winter Palace, bringing down the Provisional Government and ushering in the Soviet version of socialism?

"Yes," he said and he was also thinking of the bloody repressed demonstrations of 1905. But Mr Kinnock's mind was also on more up-to-date problems. His gaze shifted to the Great Alexander Column, topped by a cross and angel, commemorating the Tsar who liberated the serfs. "Cunning these Russians," he said. "That's probably an SS20 in disguise."

Today's meeting with Mr Chernenko will go some way towards showing how seriously the Russians take Mr Kinnock as a potential Labour Prime Minister and future negotiating partner. So far, despite his red carpet welcome last Wednesday, the evidence is that the Soviet leadership is unimpressed by Labour's non-nuclear defence policy and is reserving judgment on Mr Kinnock himself.

The visit has received very little coverage in the Soviet media. The fact that Mr Kinnock is meeting Mr Chernenko and has been promised a lengthy encounter, is in itself a compliment. But the announcement of new Soviet-American talks in January, while allowing Mr Kinnock to share the limelight, has over-shadowed his visit and is to some extent making Labour's non-nuclear approach look irrelevant.

Russians are in any case puzzled by unilateralism, since they are firmly wedded to the concept of massive arms strength.

Mr Kinnock might note the less one day find himself at No. 10 and at the weekend the Russians gave him first class treatment in Leningrad while he pondered today's Kremlin meeting. Mr Kinnock and his wife, Glenys, and Mr Denis Healey and his wife, Edna, not to mention the British press, appeared in the protocol arrangements as "The English Delegation (Special Attention) No. 219773" and special attention was what the Kinnock party got.

The press was quartered on the Pribaltitskaya or Baltic Shore Hotel, a modern Swedish-built structure in grey, built on bleak reclaimed land far from the city centre. The Kinnocks and Healeys, however, were put up at the party's own hotel near the Leningrad party headquarters, Smolny, in the picturesque heart of old Petrograd.

The English delegation was duly shown the shrine of the Revolution at Smolny Institute, which in 1917 was the hub of Bolshevik activity.

Mr Kinnock's young aides looked suitably awestruck, although Mr Kinnock himself seemed rather bored by the official guide's relentless recital of Lenin's achievements. "I'm pointing at a painting, isn't that Trotsky? At what point did he become unmentionable?" The guide lapsed into embarrassed silence.

The party was held up as Mrs Kinnock and Mrs Healey, Labour ladies of different generations, jointly admired the Fabergé jewellery. Mr Kinnock came over and had his attention drawn to an exquisite miniature white elephant studded with jewels. "We too have a white elephant at home," he observed. "We call him the Chancellor of the Exchequer."

But with his attention momentarily deflected from the stunning display of Titians, Botticellis and Rembrandts, Mr Kinnock grew more somber as he stared out at the snow-covered courtyard towards the Alexander column. Possibly with his mind on today's Kremlin encounter, he remarked that the best way to reduce arms expenditure might well be to build cardboard missiles, along the lines of General Patton's phantom army in the Second World War.

"It is not a bad idea you know," he mused. "Let the other side think you have rockets and they will still be afraid of you. It is especially efficient when you are dealing with paranoid governments." Mr Kinnock tactfully avoided clarifying whether he was referring to the Soviet Union or the United States before his attention was drawn back to Matisses and the post-impressionists.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duchess of Gloucester attends the 7th Lords v Commons charity swim at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London, 8.05.

Prince Michael of Kent attends the Kennel Club committee dinner at the Kennel Club, Clarges St, London, 7.10.

New exhibitions
Watercolours, jewellery and ceramics, Torrance Gallery, Dundas Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Fri 11 to 5.

6. Sat 10.30 to 1; (from today until Dec 24)
Paintings by Broughty Ferry Arts Society, Central Library, The Wellgate, Dundee; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 7. Sat 9.30 to 5; (from today until Dec 8)

City Art Gallery annual members exhibition, City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (until Dec 20)

Cheltenham Group of Artists annual exhibition, Cheltenham Art Gallery, Clarence Street, Cheltenham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; (until Dec 15)

Recent paintings by Robert

Nature notes

Corromants are appearing on inland waters, especially where there are islands or rafts for them to perch on. After diving for fish, they dry themselves by standing with wide-open wings, and tail-feathers spread in a spiky fan. Gadwall are arriving in twos and threes on lonely lakes; the drake is mainly bluish-grey, with a conspicuous black tail which was above the water when the bird up-ends to feed. Kingfishers are moving about the country, skimming with a flash of blue feathers over reedy pools where they have not been seen since last winter. Many snipe have come in from Germany; they walk gravely along the edges of swamps and puddles, and when they stop to feed they push their long beak into the mud right up to the base.

Hedges are still green and yellow with the leaves of hawthorn and elder. There is a last-minute brilliance in the oaks; under aspen trees, the leaves quickly turn black. In neglected city gardens, gallant poppies are still flowering in thick clumps; the flowers are tiny white petals with yellow centres, set among pale green leaves. By West Country riversides, tattered pink flowers linger on the Himalayan balsam.

DJM

The pound

Bank of England
Australia \$ 1.485 1.415
Canada \$ 27.50 26.75
Denmark 136.50 135.50
France FF 6.55 6.50
Germany DM 178.00 168.00
Hong Kong \$ 9.50 9.25
Italy Lira 2285.00 2285.00
Japan Yen 212.00 208.00
Netherlands Gld 4.30 4.10
Norway Kr 11.14 10.84
Portugal Escudo 200.00 200.00
South Africa Rand 2.30 2.12
Spain Ptas 165.00 165.00
Sweden Krona 10.50 10.40
Switzerland Fr 2.15 2.01
US Dollars \$ 1.587 1.517

London: The FT index closed up 0.4 on Friday at 8102.
New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed up 16.78 on Friday at 1220.30.

The papers

Commenting on Foreign Office budget cuts, The Sunday Express suggested that rather than cut aid to poor countries, "Sir Geoffrey must seize the diplomatic service and shake it until the gold tumbles out of its ceremonial tunic."

The Observer does a general attack by the Government on culture, citing cuts in overseas student numbers, economies at the British Council and the possibility of VAT on public auctions.

The Mail on Sunday argued for protection of the BBC's External Services, praising the BBC's high prestige abroad.

Weather forecast

Troughs of low pressure will approach NW areas.
6am to midnight

London, SE, central E England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts; becoming drier later, with NW, becoming SW, moderate; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

E, central E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts; becoming drier later, with NW, becoming SW, moderate; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

SW, NW England, Wales: Sunny periods, showers drying out; wind NW, becoming SW, moderate; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Lake District, Lake of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Anglin, Northern Ireland: Sunny periods; rain later, with strong gusts; becoming drier later, with NW, becoming SW, moderate; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

SEA PASSAGE: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, Wind W, backing SW, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate. English Channel (E) Wind NW, backing SW, moderate; sea slight. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, moderate, backing S, strong to gale later; sea slight, becoming rough.

High tides

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts warm, cold, occluded. Symbols are as on previous pages.

London Bridge 3.38 HT 4.07
Aberdeen 3.11 4.22 5.33
Aberystwyth 3.10 4.21 5.32
Belfast 3.11 4.22 5.33
Cardiff 3.11 4.22 5.33
Dover 3.11 4.22 5.33
Edinburgh 3.11 4.22 5.33
Glasgow 3.11 4.22 5.33
Hull 3.11 4.22 5.33
Liverpool 3.11 4.22 5.33
London 3.11 4.22 5.33
Manchester 3.11 4.22 5.33
Newcastle 3.11 4.22 5.33
Plymouth 3.11 4.22 5.33
Portsmouth 3.11 4.22 5.33
Reading 3.11 4.22 5.33
Sheffield 3.11 4.22 5.33
Southampton 3.11 4.22 5.33
Swansea 3.11 4.22 5.33
Tees 3.11 4.22 5.33
Warrington 3.11 4.22 5.33
Widnes 3.11 4.22 5.33
Wolverhampton 3.11 4.22 5.33
Wrexham 3.11 4.22 5.33

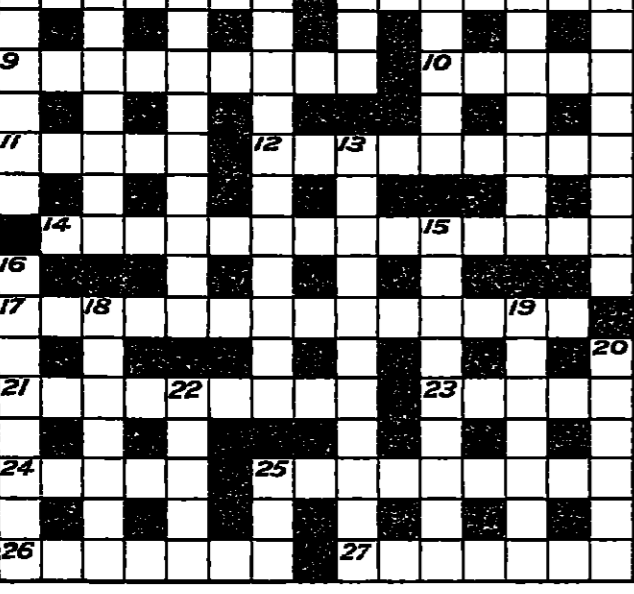
Around Britain

Sun Rain Max
Aberdeen 3.11 4.22 5.33
Aberystwyth 3.10 4.21 5.32
Belfast 3.11 4.22 5.33
Cardiff 3.11 4.22 5.33
Dover 3.11 4.22 5.33
Edinburgh 3.11 4.22 5.33
Glasgow 3.11 4.22 5.33
Hull 3.11 4.22 5.33
Liverpool 3.11 4.22 5.33
London 3.11 4.22 5.33
Manchester 3.11 4.22 5.33
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Swansea 3.11 4.22 5.33
Tees 3.11 4.22 5.33
Warrington 3.11 4.22 5.33
Widnes 3.11 4.22 5.33
Wolverhampton 3.11 4.22 5.33
Wrexham 3.11 4.22 5.33

Abroad

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.
Aberdeen 3.11 4.22 5.33
Aberystwyth 3.10 4.21 5.32
Belfast 3.11 4.22 5.33
Cardiff 3.11 4.22 5.33
Dover 3.11 4.22 5.33
Edinburgh 3.11 4.22 5.33
Glasgow 3.11 4.22 5.33
Hull 3.11 4.22 5.33
Liverpool 3.11 4.22 5.33
London 3.11 4.22 5.33
Manchester 3.11 4.22 5.33
Newcastle 3.11 4.22 5.33
Plymouth 3.11 4.22 5.33
Portsmouth 3.11 4.22 5.33
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Warrington 3.11 4.22 5.33
Widnes 3.11 4.22 5.33
Wolverhampton 3.11 4.22 5.33
Wrexham 3.11 4.22 5.33

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,595



ACROSS

- 1 Killer's form of Old Testament drama (7).
- 2 Persistent note on composer, perhaps (7).
- 3 Certain inside control provides secondary cover (9).
- 4 Custom, perhaps, in a jazz dance? On the contrary (5).
- 5 Set to reach maturity out West (5).
- 6 Joined together to eat without trade disruption (9).
- 7 Frustration expressed eventually by the Sleeping Beauty (14).
- 8 Attendant of low order may have us all taped (9,5).
- 9 Café where poor men sit and eat (9).
- 10 Unwisely invite flattering attention (5).
- 11 26, an eponymous Dostoevskian hero (5).
- 12 No member thus returned? Pity about such self-improvement (9).
- 13 This hand makes twenty-one on the staff (7).
- 14 Way student in want settled comfortably (7).

DOWN

- 1 Motorway madness - an illusion? (6).
- 2 Make a mistake over oil output in N Africa (7).
- 3 Sort of paper said to do the vanishing trick (9).
- 4 Refinement of unusual political clique (11).
- 5 Geyser's origin as a source of heat (3).
- 6 One reaching higher position in flight (5).
- 7 Preacher extremely late after an appointment (7).
- 8 Hasten training sail in France to be held in river (8).
- 9 So cute, in a strange way, though suburban (9).
- 10 Last word about king in a novel from Transcaucasia (8).
- 11 Large sum needed to support Tom's favourite in bed (7).
- 12 Formerly a universal vessel made of cast-offs (7).
- 13 Stopped being serious demeanour, say (6).
- 14 The Warden's reading matter (5).
- 15 Chum of a student from Pittsburgh, for instance (3).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,594 will appear next Saturday

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